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OBLASTS: Bulgaria's New Administrative Units

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East Europe

OBLASTS: Bulgaria's New Administrative Units

JPRS-EER-88-025

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29 MARCH 1988

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OBLASTS: Bulgaria's New Administrative Units

Decree on Oblasts Published 22000008a Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO

[For additional information see pp 18-20 of the Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT FBIS-EEU-87-199 of 15 October 1987]

[Text] The State Council of the Bulgarian People's Republic, on the basis of Article 93, Section 25 of the Constitution of the Bulgarian People's Republic and of Article 2 of the Law on the Establishment of Administrative Territorial Units—Oblasts, issues the following:

Decree No 2704 To Determine the Numbers and Borders of the Oblasts, the Municipalities Included in Them, and Their Administrative Centers.

Article 1 (only article). The numbers and borders of the oblasts, the municipalities included in them, and their administrative centers are determined as follows:

1. Burgas Oblast, with the town of Burgas as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Aytos, Blatets, Burgas, Bolyarovo, Voynika, Grudovo, Elkhovo, Kameno, Karnobat, Kermen, Kotel, Malko Turnovo, Michurin, Mlekarevo, Nesebur, Nova Zagora, Pomorie, Ruen, Skalitsa, Sliven, Sozopol, Straldzha, Sungurlare, Tvruditsa, Tenevo, and Yambol.

2. Varna Oblast, with the town of Varna as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Avren, Aksakovo, Balchik, Beloslav, Byala, Varna, Vetrino, Venets, Vulchi Dol, Vurbitsa, Georgi Traykov, General Toshevo, Devnya, Dulgopol, Ivanski, Kalichenovo, Kaspichan, Kavarna, Krushari, Novi Pazar, Nikola Kozlevo, Preslav, Provadiya, Suvorovo, Smyadovo, Tervel, Tolbukhin, Khitrino, Shabla, and Shumen.

3. Lovech Oblast, with the town of Lovech as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Aleksandrovo, Apriltsi, Belene, Veliko Turnovo, Gabrovo, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Gradnitsa, Gulyantsi, Dryanovo, Dolna Mitropoliya, Dolni Dubnik, Dermantsi, Elena, Zlatartitsa, Kilifarevo, Levski, Lyaskovets, Letnitsa, Lovech, Lukovit, Nikopol, Pavlikeni, Pelovo, Pleven, Polski Trubesh, Podem, Pordim, Svishtov, Sevlievo, Strazhitsa, Stokite, Sukhindol, Teteven, Troyan, Tryavna, Ugurchin, Cherven Bryag, and Yablanitsa.

4. Mikhaylovgrad Oblast, with the town of Mikhaylovgrad as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Belogradchik, Berkovitsa, Boynitsa, Boychikovtsi, Bregovo, Brusartsi, Byala Slatina, Borovan, Vidin, Vulchedrum, Vurshets, Vratsa, Gabare, Gramada, Georgi Damyanovo, Dimovo, Dunavtsi, Zlatiya, Knezhha, Krivodol, Kozloduy, Kula, Lekhchevo, Lom, Makresh, Mezdra, Medkovets, Miziya, Mikhaylovgrad, Novo Selo, Oryakhovo, Roman, Ruzhinstsi, Smolyanovtsi, Khayredin, Chiprovtsi, Chuprene, and Yakimovo.

5. Plovdiv Oblast, with the town of Plovdiv as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Asenovgrad, Banite, Batak, Belovo, Bratsigovo, Brezovo, Borino, Velingrad, Devin, Dospat, Zlatograd, Kaloyanovo, Karlovo, Lesichevo, Luki, Madan, Mikhalkovo, Nedelino, Pazardzhik, Panagyurishte, Peshtera, Plovdiv, Purvomay, Rakovski, Rakitovo, Rudozem, Septemvri, Sadovo, Slaveyno, Smolyan, Smilyan, Strelcha, Suedinenie, Surnitsa, Khvoyna, Khisarya, Topolovo, Chepelare, Chernogorovo, and Shiroka Luka.

6. Razgrad Oblast, with the town of Razgrad as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Alfatar, Antonovo, Borovo, Byala, Vetovo, Voditsa, Glavinitsa, Dralva, Dulovo, Dve Mogili, Zavet, Zafirovo, Ivanovo, Isperikh, Kaynardzha, Kubrat, Lozantsa, Makaripolsko, Novo Selo, Popovo, Obitel, Omurtag, Okorsh, Opaka, Professor Ishirkovo, Razgrad, Ruse, Sadina, Samuil, Senovo, Siliстра, Sitovo, Slivo Pole, Turgovishte, Tutrakan, Khlebarovo, Tsenovo, Shtuklevo, and Yuper.

7. Sofia Oblast, with the city of Sofia as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Bansko, Belitsa, Blagoevgrad, Bobovdol, Bozhurishte, Boboshevo, Botevgrad, Breznik, Godech, Gorna Malina, Gotse Delchev, Gurmen, Gurlyano, Dolna Banya, Dragoman, Dragovishtitsa, Elin Pelin, Etropole, Zemen, Ikh-timan, Koprivshtitsa, Kocherinovo, Kostinbrod, Kostenevs, Katuntsi, Kovachevtsi, Kyustendil, Kolarovo, Kresna, Melnik, Nevestino, Pernik, Petrich, Pravets, Purvomay, Radomir, Razlog, Rila, Samokov, Sandanski, Satovcha, Svoge, Simitli, Slivnitsa, Sapareva Banya, Srednogorie, Stanke Dimitrov, Strumyani, Treklano, Trun, Khadzhidimovo, and Yakoruda.

8. Khaskovo Oblast, with the town of Khaskovo as its administrative center, including the following municipalities: Avren, Ardino, Benkovski, Bratya Daskalovi, Byal Izvor, Gurkovo, Gulubovo, Dzhebel, Dulboki, Dimitrovgrad, Ivaylovgrad, Kazanluk, Kaloyanovets, Kirkovo, Krumovgrad, Kurdzhali, Lyubimets, Madzharovo, Momchilgrad, Mineralni Bani, Mlechino, Muglizh, Opan, Pavel Banya, Perperek, Podkova, Radnevo, Stara Zagora, Simeonovgrad, Svilengrad, Stambolovo, Topolovgrad, Kharmanli, Khaskovo, Chernoochene, and Chirpan.

9. The city of Sofia, with the status of an oblast, including the 12 former rayons.

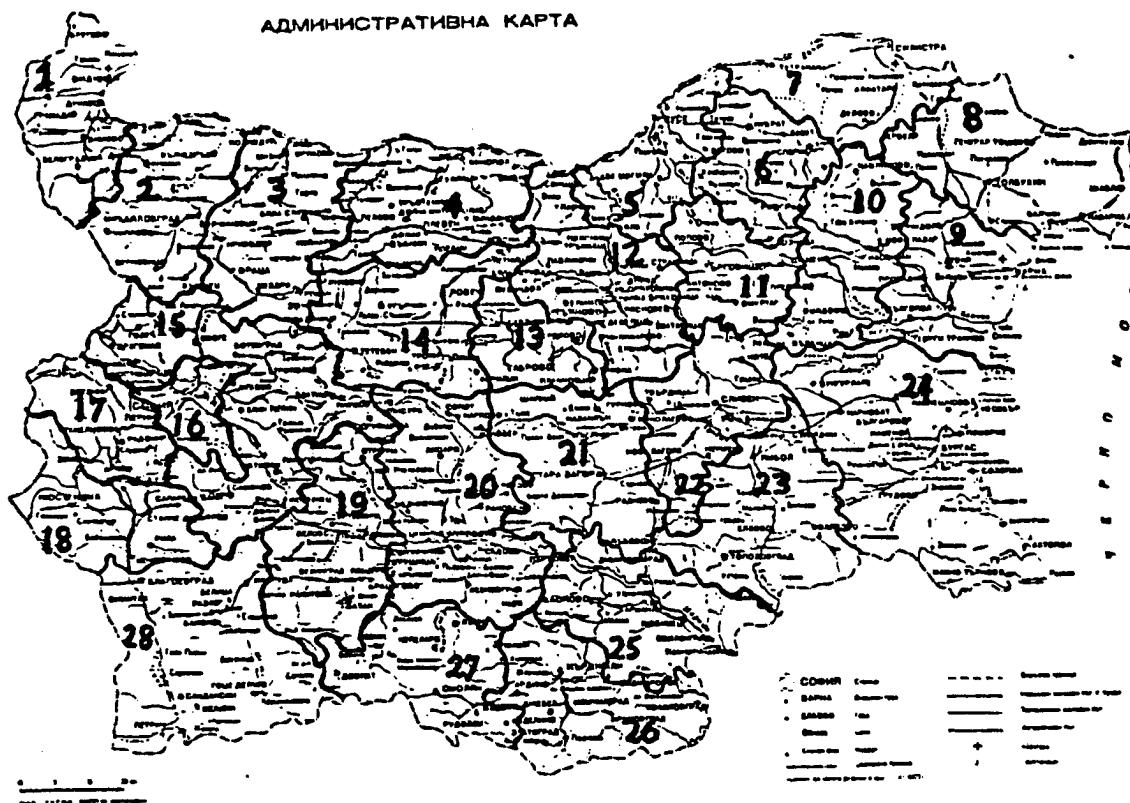
The implementation of this decree is entrusted to the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Issued in Sofia on 26 August 1987 and sealed with the State Seal.

Map of Previous Territorial Units
2200008b Sofia ENTSIKLOPEDIYA BULGARIYA in
Bulgarian 1978 unpaginated insert

Administrative Map

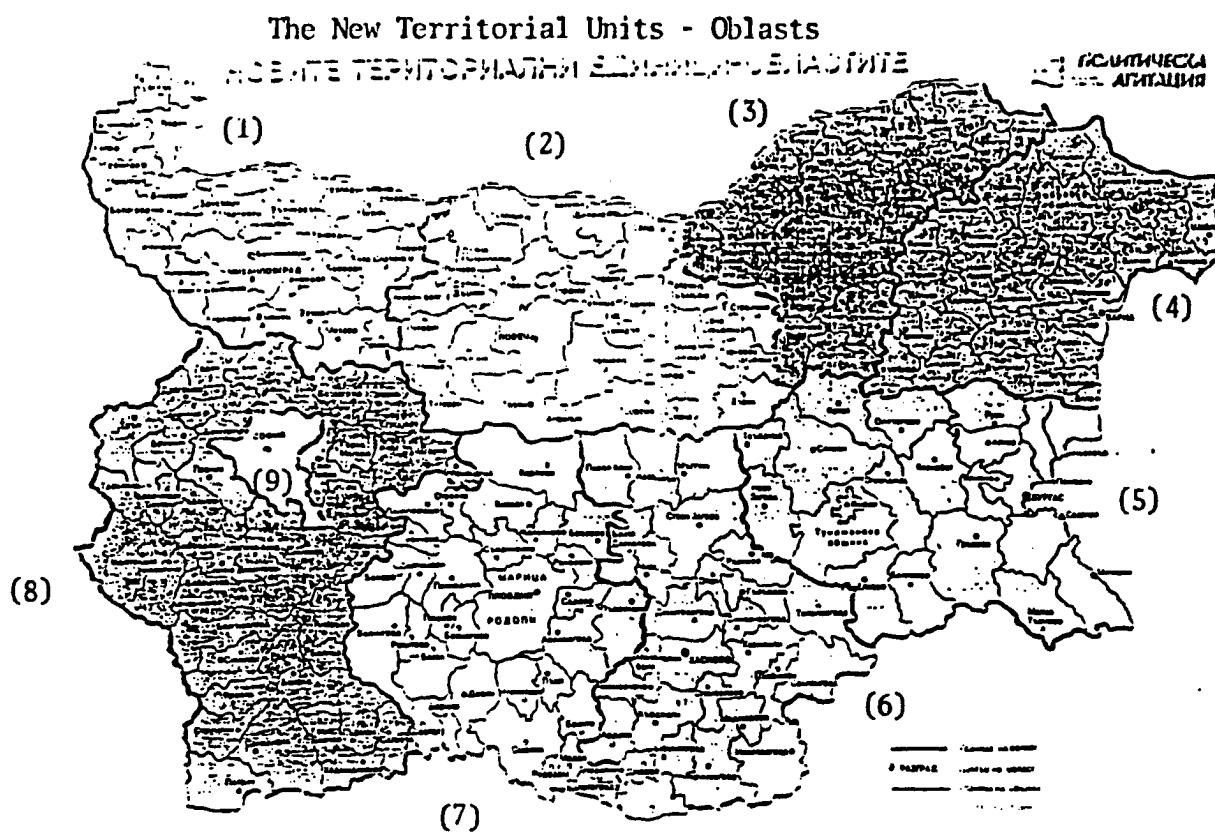
АДМИНИСТРАТИВНА КАРТА



Key:

1. Vidin Okrug	15. Sofia Okrug
2. Mikhaylovgrad Okrug	16. Sofia City
3. Vratsa Okrug	17. Pernik Okrug
4. Pleven Okrug	18. Kyustendil Okrug
5. Ruse Okrug	19. Pazardzhik Okrug
6. Razgrad Okrug	20. Plovdiv Okrug
7. Siliстра Okrug	21. Stara Zagora Okrug
8. Tolbukhin Okrug	22. Sliven Okrug
9. Varna Okrug	23. Yambol Okrug
10. Shumen Okrug	24. Burgas Okrug
11. Turgovishte Okrug	25. Khaskovo Okrug
12. Veliko Turnovo Okrug	26. Kurdzhali Okrug
13. Gabrovo Okrug	27. Smolyan Okrug
14. Lovech Okrug	28. Blagoevgrad Okrug

Map of New Territorial Units
2200008c Sofia POLITICHESKA AGITATSIIA in
Bulgarian Issue 2, Jan 88 unpaginated insert



Key:

1. Mikhaylovgrad Oblast	6. Khaskovo Oblast
2. Lovech Oblast	7. Plovdiv Oblast
3. Razgrad Oblast	8. Sofia Oblast
4. Varna Oblast	9. Sofia City
5. Burgas Oblast	

Introduction
2200008d Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] One month after the resolution of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and the ukase of the State Council of the NRB, our reporters describe the oblasts, the municipalities and their people.

These are the resolutions of the July BCP Central Committee Plenum in action! This is a truly measurable, visible, energetic and innovative action which has gained

an impetus from and was concretized in the BCP Central Committee Politburo resolution and the ukase of the NRB State Council of 26 August. Its powerful transforming force covers the entire country, each settlement and every individual.

It took no more than 1 month to turn these resolutions into a new social reality. However, this was a month packed with constructive events and a process of tremendous social creativity which developed in our country. Yet this is merely the beginning, for it is precisely the

oblast and, above all, the municipalities that will implement the new content and new functions of self-government and rule by the people.

There are eight oblasts described in eight pages. This issue describes the meeting between our reporters with the targets of restructuring.

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Burgas Oblast

Description, Interview With Oblast Official
22000008e Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 5

[Materials prepared by Rumen Yanev]

[Text]

The Hope of Strandzha Bair

There is the sea, sea gulls, a summer resort and the great harvest in the autumn. Merchant ships are moored, one hears many languages.... In a word, this is Burgas and the sea. The two are most naturally interlinked in the Bulgarian mind, whatever else may be known about all the rest. The rest, to put it mildly, is impressive. It involves petrochemistry, machine building, transportation and agriculture and now metallurgy as well (the Mill 300 will be commissioned in Debelt). All this is so impressive that the former Burgas Okrug was second only to the capital in terms of industrial output. For the past month, however, we have been speaking of Burgas Oblast. Added to what we have already said, there are the textiles in Sliven, wheat in Yambol and...the entire Bulgarian Strandzha.

Strandzha's future: we tried to look at it from the height of the forthcoming change. One month after the resolution of the BCP Central Committee Politburo on the Establishment of the New Territorial Units—the Oblasts—and Ukase No 2704 of the NRB State Council, we tried to find the real dimensions of democracy in one of the problem areas of Burgas Oblast. We talked with "old" and "new" Strandzha people, and with municipal and oblast managers. We also touched upon the present roots of future growth. We saw the hope for rapid change. To sum it up: the new territorial structures, along with the continuing effect of Resolutions 22 and 60 provide a powerful incentive for the development of the area. Once again the season of hope is beginning in Strandzha.

Balance and Justice; Interview With Kostadin Yanchev, Chairman of the Burgas Oblast People's Council Executive Committee

[Question] Burgas Oblast is 1-month old. However short this time may be, it is nonetheless sufficient to earmark the main trends in your future work, single out the essential problems and allow the first outlines of the new oblast organism to be manifested. What is the balance, so far?

[Answer] I admit that many things here are new to me. I am studying now the territory, the economy and the people. My initial impressions are more than good. From the geographic and economic viewpoints, the oblast offers all the necessary prerequisites for unified and harmonious development. We have already submitted our suggestions concerning its territorial structure and we anticipate to have 19 instead of the 26 municipalities which existed so far. Our wish is for each municipality to be strong and viable in order to be self-supporting and self-financing, for it is precisely the municipalities that will be the center of gravity in the area of state administration.

[Question] Do you anticipate changes in the municipal structure of the Strandzha area?

[Answer] No. The six municipalities which existed in the past will preserve their territories and their structure. Perhaps not all of them are equal in terms of economic potential but this is an inherited feature which we must take into consideration. The main thing now is to staff them with well-trained and energetic cadres and see to it that all the stipulations of Resolutions 22 and 60 are accurately and promptly implemented.

[Question] To the best of our understanding, today one of your main tasks is to rehabilitate municipal authorities.

[Answer] Yes, especially here, near the southern Black Sea, we note an alarming paradox. The municipalities in the maritime settlements have lost their rights. They are commanded by Balkanturist. This paradox must be eliminated. Summertime recreation and international tourism are an important area of economic activities but the local state authorities should not be excluded from them. It is precisely they that represent the population of the maritime settlements, for which reason they must have the final say in all matters related to resort building and activities and have an economic interest in them. It is not an honest thing for someone else to command you in your own backyard and to harvest your own crop.

[Question] It is obvious that at this stage you are emphasizing the new opportunities of the municipalities for self-government. What then will be the role of the oblast people's council?

[Answer] The way I see it, our main function will be that of maintaining the balance. This means harmony in relations among municipalities, and equitable distribution of oblast resources. This is in reference to some not entirely ethical actions committed by the former okrug councils in terms of the distribution of funds and ceilings as per Resolution No 22. Today we must not allow this to happen. Conversely, we must harness all the possibilities of the oblast in order to assist the accelerated development of the Strandzha municipalities. This would be fair. Adding to this the stimulating role of self-government, which should help to mobilize the municipal managements themselves, I think that we could look more optimistically at the possibility of a faster development of the border areas.

Freedom To Make One's Own Decisions

We toured the Strandzha municipalities together with Yordan Mirchev, representative of the Komsomol Central Committee for Burgas Oblast. His area has now been expanded. Bolyarovo and Elkhovo have been added to Malko Turnovo, Grudovo, Sozopol and Michurin. However, he did not seem worried by his new duties:

This is more logical. So far, Strandzha was divided between two okrugs. One would make one decision and the other, another. There was a boundary dividing them. Transportation was broken. The natural integrity of the area was disturbed. Now the future of Strandzha can be conceived as a single entity, which is beneficial to all local municipalities. The present dispersion hindered the implementation of many plans and disturbed relations among municipalities. The consequences of this approach are as yet to be surmounted. However, the people have already felt the new developments and believe, more than in the past, in the possibilities of the accelerated development of the area.

This was the first opinion expressed in the course of our "investigation on wheels" along the Strandzha roads.

Here are the other:

Yanka Kyurkchieva, secretary, Komsomol Municipal Committee, Grudovo: "Here, in Grudovo, the people realized very quickly that now the answers to all important problems will have to be provided by themselves. Perhaps this was the main result of the month since the resolution of the BCP Central Committee decree and the State Council ukase. The fact that the municipality now assumes all main functions of state power is a source of hope for all of us, including those of us who work at the municipal Komsomol committee. Our possibilities of solving problems directly affecting the young become greater. There will no longer be any need to wait for instructions "from above." We will not have to beg the okrug for funds, cultural programs and material facilities. We shall be aware of our possibilities and will seek

our own solutions. This may be more difficult but is also more realistic. In any case, this is better than just waiting and not knowing what you will get."

Ivan Iliev, rayon mechanic in charge of communications equipment at Fakiya Village, a settler on the basis of Resolution No 22: "I personally welcome the new administrative-territorial structure. The main reason is that the authority of the municipalities and the town councils will be increased. I believe that this independence will have a positive impact on our communications enterprise in Grudovo. Until now we were linked with an 'umbilical cord' with the okrug which determined our financing, personnel and material equipment. So far, however, the results of this approach had not been pleasing in the least. This can be felt immediately when we pick up the telephone at the municipality. All we did was collect the fees. Now we shall be aware of our possibilities. At home I know what it is that we need and I make my calculations. The same should be the case of the municipality. Problems must be solved wherever they exist. Let the oblast leadership see to it that relations among municipalities are fair and harmonious and be responsible for maintaining a balance."

Petur [illegible], mayor of Zhelyazkovo Village, settler as per Resolution No 22: "The other day we set up a brigade and Uncle Ivan shouted to one of the boys: 'You better wash this bucket properly, for it belongs to the municipal council! In the past it may have been the property of the municipality but now it is ours. We are not about to buy a new one.' I felt good. This, I told myself, is the new approach. It has been in the Bulgarian blood for generations but of late we had somehow lost track of our accounts. Now we know them. What was the case in the past? I may impose a fine and the money would leave the village, after which I would have to beg for that money in order to repair the damage. Or else, consider construction: we started building a health service, received an advance of 25,000 leva, bought materials and then it was decided in Grudovo to freeze the project. We were told to build a post office. But we do not wish a post office, for the post office is already operating in the building of the comprehensive brigade and is perfectly adequate. That is why the municipal councils themselves must decide what will be taking place on their territory."

Dancho Kuzmanov, party organization secretary, Zhelyazkovo Village: "The boundary separating us from the Bolyarovo Obshtina is just a few kilometers away from our village. One month ago, this was also the border separating two okrugs. Procurements and transportation ended there, as though it was a state border. Now everything seems much more encouraging and people wait with a great deal of hope for the establishment of the new transportation and trade structure in the oblast, for it is unnatural to be locked within our borders and thus hinder our own development. We are very hopeful in the matter of our economic independence. This applies to the comprehensive brigade. This is our economy and we

ourselves must decide how to develop it. We have started an experiment: two young shepherds will take over a herd, working on a piece-rate basis. Their earnings will depend on their own efforts. I hope that they will succeed. After that we shall reorganize animal husbandry. It is high time to decide here, in the village, what to raise and how, for while we were waiting for problems of the expediency of milking the Strandzha sheep to be solved 'from above,' we lost both shepherds and entire herds."

Angel Todorov, deputy chairman, Bolyarovo Municipal People's Council: "As the people say here, we have a window to the sea. However, this is not the most important thing. The most important thing is that we 'tightened up' our state, for we had divided it into a large number of pieces which was the least advantageous to the people in the various villages, particularly in our case. The entire attention was focused on the rayons, implemented through the measures based on Resolutions 22 and 60, reaching us through the okrug 'filter.' They were the first to slice 'the pie,' and part of it reached us in the municipal center and virtually nothing was left for the villages. We have a lasting memory of the 'attention' which the okrug paid to us: the closing down of the shop for nonalcoholic beverages in Stefan Karadzhovo, because of unprofitability. We are now preparing to give it a second life."

Atanas Angelov, director of the general construction enterprise in Bolyarovo: "For the past 5 years a great deal of funds, capital and equipment have gone to Strandzha. What was received there can be seen with the naked eye. The people say that many of the projects were built in Yambol. This may be so. It is difficult to understand. My hope is that now the oblast leadership will do what is necessary to increase the construction capacity of Strandzha municipalities, for renovation in this area begins with construction. If we continue as we were doing in the past, nothing much would be built. The Yambol SMK considered us a headache and kept violating our deadlines. I do not know how our present structure of the construction organizations will be coordinated with the new territorial division and the increased rights of the municipalities. For the time being, such is not the case. Meanwhile, we are waiting...."

Burgas Oblast

Nikolay Zhishev, first secretary, Oblast BCP Committee. Ivan Ovcharov, Petur Peykov and Vasil Zlatev, secretaries.

Kostadin Yanchev, chairman of the Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Atanas Stambolov, Nedelcho Pandev, Georgi Yordanov and Todorka Murdzheva, deputy chairmen. Mancho Panayotov, secretary.

Administrative center: Burgas. Includes the old Burgas, Sliven and Yambol Okrugs (excluding Topolovgrad Municipality).

Territory: 14,664 square kilometers (13.2 percent of the country's territory). Population: 872,487 (9.7 percent of the country's population). Accounts for 12.5 percent of the national income and for nearly 10 percent of the country's capital assets.

The okrug has an industrial-agrarian structure with developed economic tourism and transportation systems, maritime in particular. It accounts for the country's 13.7 percent industrial and 11.6 percent agricultural output.

Structure-determining sectors: petrochemical industry and the production and processing of synthetic fibers.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader

22000008e Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 5 Oct 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Nikolay Zhishev by RABOTNICHESKO DELO Burgas Correspondent Tsanko Raychev]

[Text] [Question] The July BCP Central Committee Plenum indicated the way to achieve radical and revolutionary changes in all areas of social life. What possibilities are created in building and implementing the unified policy for the harmonious development of Burgas Oblast?

[Answer] The Southeastern Territorial Production Complex is complicated, varied and dynamic. In the course of decades a significant material and technical base was built here. Complex production relations, production cooperation and integration were developed. The resolutions of the July Plenum created the necessary conditions and prerequisites for achieving a qualitatively new growth and the harmonious and accelerated development of Burgas Oblast. However, the shaping of a unified policy is a difficult and lengthy process.

As early as the end of last year, in the course of meetings with party and state leaders of neighboring okrugs, we made a profound and comprehensive evaluation of existing relations. We set up a joint task force of specialists who undertook preparations for a long-term comprehensive program for the optimal utilization of all regional resources.

More than 30 enterprises of the old Burgas Okrug have active production, technological and scientific ties with enterprises and organizations in the former Sliven and Yambol Okrugs. The main task now is to create conditions for restructuring the economy and utilizing the tremendous opportunities which the oblasts create for economic growth.

[Question] Which are the main, the most promising trends for the accelerated socioeconomic development of the oblast?

[Answer] Burgas Oblast includes one of the five centers of the biotechnological and chemical industries. Great technological breakthroughs can be achieved at the TKhNK plant in Burgas and the Dimitur Dimov TKhK in Yambol in terms of the profound processing of raw materials and the development of low-tonnage chemicals. In this area we already have a Regional Technologically Integrated Complex at work.

The metallurgical enterprise in Debelt, the first stage of which will be commissioned soon, will become the base, the main nucleus with extensive possibilities for integration and creation of background capacities and small- and medium-sized satellite enterprises. These production units will become the main foundation for the economy of the Strandzha area and, above all, of Gruyovo, Bolyarovo, Elkhovo and Yambol.

Burgas is a maritime oblast open to the southern Black Sea shore. This calls for seeking new approaches and solutions in the use of the resources of the sea, which is a tremendous national resource.

Currently the oblast accounts for 13.7 percent of the country's industrial output. The efficiency of the existing material and technical base will be enhanced by improving the economic structure and efficiently coordinating production ties; we shall surmount the unevenness in the development of municipalities, which was the result of objective and subjective reasons. Currently Burgas, Sliven and Yambol, the old okrug centers, have a strongly developed economy. Meanwhile, municipalities such as Bolyarovo, Ruen and other border areas have fallen considerably behind. The question of the planned and harmonious development of the municipalities assumes priority. Step-by-step, systematically, we must strengthen their economic power, taking into consideration both the national interests and the need to build and establish the municipalities as the basic territorial self-governing units.

[Question] The southeastern part of our country is one of the driest areas in Bulgaria. Under such circumstances how can we achieve a stable, intensive and efficient development of agriculture?

[Answer] In recent years there has been a substantial concentration and specialization. Conditions for industrial output of grain, sunflower, sugar beets, grapes, poultry, milk and pork were created. The concentrated use of the land has reached the 1.8 coefficient rate. Irrigated areas in the oblast are already exceeding 1.5 million decares. For many years the okrugs within this oblast held leading positions in the country in the production of agricultural commodities. The task now is to stabilize the high yields of farm crops so that, as early as 1988, we may be able to ensure the full self-support of

the municipalities and have no difficulty in welcoming more than 2.5 million tourists annually. We must develop the type of production structure which will be most consistent with the natural climatic, economic and ecological conditions of the oblast.

A major breakthrough has been achieved in the application of the piece-rate system in the production of vegetables, poultry and eggs. All brigades are systematically converting to full self-support and self-financing. The use of the family and small-group piece-rate system will be applied in animal husbandry, in sheep breeding in particular.

[Question] In your statement at the July BCP Central Committee Plenum, in a spirit of self-criticism, you pointed out that "the agenda of many meetings, unfortunately, continues to show a disparity with the agenda of life." How do you assess restructuring in the style and methods of work of the party authorities in accordance with the new requirements?

[Answer] It is too early to speak of a qualitative change and a decisive upturn. We have undertaken to eliminate stereotypes and systems which have taken years to accumulate and to remove anything which is hindering the style and methods of work. We took a step forward in the democratization of internal party relations. The style of many committees has been enriched with new elements of practicality and collective leadership. We have abandoned the strictly scenario-oriented preparations for plenums. In order not to clash with the "agenda of life," we are discussing sensitive problems openly and directly. We are not concealing the existence of a grave housing problem. We are seeking lasting ways for the rhythmical utilization of funds for housing. Problems exist also in building schools and kindergartens. We can no longer tolerate the fact that during the most active tourist season the trip from Sliven to Burgas takes 3 to 4 hours. It is high time to complete this section of the main track.

On the basis of long-term statesmanlike approaches, we must solve problems related to the training of highly skilled local cadres. Currently the oblast has real possibilities of surmounting the disproportion between the leading position which the southeastern area holds in the country's economy and its underdeveloped network of higher and semi-higher schools.

Our territorial complex is not only a major industrial, agricultural and tourist area but also an important cultural center in our country. A number of traditional cultural undertakings are taking place here involving international participation, which prove the high prestige enjoyed by theaters, the opera and the symphony orchestras. Burgas Oblast has possibilities of integrating the efforts of the personnel on the cultural front, whose creative achievements will now be made available to the working people not of a single city or municipality but to the entire oblast.

The oblast leadership is facing broad and crucial problems. They can be solved only by steadily improving the activities of the party organizations, systematically upgrading the role of municipal party committees and promoting their independence, creativity and initiative. The municipal committees must abandon the habit of awaiting instructions from above. They must get rid of paper-shuffling and excessive meetings and undertake direct live work with the labor collectives and not ignore the problems which affect the people.

Changes which will be made in all areas of socioeconomic development are varied and revolutionary and go beyond the limits of a stereotype. That is why we have chosen an open and critical tone and a sober analytical assessment and a daring search of contemporary ways and means with which to meet the imperatives of the present.

05003

Varna Oblast

Description, Comments by Inhabitants
22000008f Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 6

[Materials prepared by Maksim Minchev, Toshio Dimitrov, and Plamen Kalinov]

[Text]

Each Settlement Is Large in Its Own Way

It has been recently repeatedly pointed out that within its new borders Varna Oblast has all the necessary conditions and prerequisites for a qualitatively new economic growth, strengthening the municipalities and developing their self-government, and ensuring a comprehensive upsurge in all areas of life. This is unquestionably the case. The oblast has a well-developed material and technical base, favorable age and skill structure of the manpower, suitable natural conditions, organized transportation, tourism and traditions.... However, initial data are not always a guarantee for the successful solution of a problem. This particularly applies to such a major innovative project. Above all, we now need the purposeful and energetic activities on the part of the subjective factor in the practical implementation of plans.

We have presented our trips in the oblast by topic. It is no secret that the solution of problems in the social area and population services determines a number of other important activities. That is why we sought the opinion of people in different municipalities holding different positions and of different ages. What was the nature of the inherited legacy? Where to begin? What are the main difficulties? Have the first steps already been taken?

The good references we heard concerning services at the Stamen Stamenov Metallurgical Aluminum Processing Enterprise in Shumen took us there on our first trip.

Dora Mirkova, chief, Cadre Support: "Our workers would have been among those benefiting from facilities. However, such is not the case in practice. Other than the branch of the State Savings Bank, in which all financial operations are performed, the food store and some other gains, the rest is not on the necessary level. We would like to help the people in the area of administrative legal services but we have no employee in charge of such work. Currently such functions are performed by a colleague of mine, who is paid a certain amount of money but this is beyond her forces. I am convinced that with the new territorial structure bureaucratism will be reduced and the people will be freed from the need to provide a number of references, receipts, forms and certificates and lose money and time. For the time being, however, everything is as in the past. We are still waiting for the new legal documents."

The list of services which will be provided by the municipality was exhibited in the foyer of the building of the municipal people's council in Venets village. Twenty-six such services were listed.

Martin Dzhambazov, chief, administrative-management services: "This is true, all of this we do ourselves. Now, however, there is an addition to this problem: after the dismantling of the okrugs it is likely that our municipality will have to assume other services and it is clear that some of them will be performed by an even lower entity, the mayoralties. In other words, everything will be the result of our accurate policy and the preparedness of the cadres."

Beloslav Municipality has a population of 13,000. It is one of the small municipalities in Varna Oblast. To a large extent its socioeconomic problems are influenced by its closeness to the oblast center and the Devnya industrial enterprises.

Stoyan Borisov, deputy chairman, municipal people's council: "We are a self-supporting municipality. According to this year's plan our income will be some 5.5 million leva and expenditures for upkeep, health care, education and other social areas will total 3.8 million. We are working under good conditions. As to administrative services, currently our citizens must go to Varna for two documents only: a pass [otkrit list] and a police record. As to the future, a number of questions will have to be clarified...."

Health Is the Main Criterion

The regional hospital in Preslav services several municipalities. Its personnel insist that they are quite familiar with the problems but they need rights and independence in order to solve them.

Dr Radi Radev, chief physician: "I am an optimist and I believe that changes which are currently taking place in the health care area will help to solve some urgent problems pertaining to small health establishments. For a variety of reasons, such problems have either been set aside or solved halfway by the superior authorities. Yet activities and problems are on the municipal level. We are servicing a number of municipalities but not one of them is concerned with the hospital! At present, the health establishment servicing the 10,000-strong population of Preslav and Vurbitsa Municipalities employs 14 physicians. The situation is particularly difficult, bearing in mind that the average for the country is 24 physicians per 10,000 population. I hope that we shall be given the opportunity to establish a more efficient and independent management of cadres. I think that we need new standards concerning financing, in order to be able to do strategic planning of health and prevention activities by teams of physicians and to apply the achievements of scientific and technical progress in our work. It is high time to abandon the complex administrative mechanism, and the unnecessary recording and reporting of the work of physicians, for such work can be determined only on the basis of the health and the industriousness of the people."

"We found expectations of changes for the better in the statement of Dr Nadya Dyulgerova, a young specialist at the Beloslav polyclinic: "In the past there was both a hospital and a maternity home here. Today specialized medical aid is concentrated in Varna. In my view, this centralization is justified [sic]. The people of Beloslav have now the advantage of instead of going to the oblast center and lose their time waiting, twice weekly they could come to us and be examined by specialized colleagues coming from Varna. For a number of years such specialized aid has been provided by the same physicians who know their patients. The problem, however, is different: it is one of retaining and stabilizing the young cadres of university graduates in the polyclinic. Personnel turnover is high."

There are great differences from one municipality to another and long distances in an oblast such as Varna. The optimism expressed at the Venets Village Municipality, which is of the fifth functional type, was somewhat more restrained:

Emil Milev, chairman of the municipal people's council: "We have opened four doctors' and 10 feldshers' health centers. Our main problem, however, is that of cadres. We have no cadres of our own. We need people. We must know that the physicians who will come to us are for us and will remain here. The situation with teachers is virtually the same: they are either assigned to us or else commute daily from the city. Today the difficult task is to provide comprehensive training to our children for enrollment in a VUZ and, on a parallel basis, to develop contacts with students and sign contracts. This year 11 students from our municipality were enrolled. But what guarantee do we have that they will return after their graduation?"

Emil Milev went on to say that there are frozen projects on municipal territory, most of the construction work is done by the enterprises themselves and the municipality has manpower which, however, cannot be retained. Every morning hundreds of workers go to the big city. We also traveled to the big city to hear other views.

Waging War on Routine

Engineer Toni Tonev, brigade leader at the Architectural Aluminum Structures, St. Stamenov MPOA, Shumen: "Administrative and economic autonomy, it seems to me, will not get us out of the administrative jungle with a wave of a magic wand. We must change not only a number of obsolete regulations but also eliminate the old type of routine way of thinking shown by some managers. Here is a specific example: The Manpower Bureau is part of the administrative-legal mechanism with which relations between worker and enterprise are settled. Nonetheless, anyone who would like to be hired by us, or anywhere else, should wait for the condescension of the official who will give him a note hiring him, based on available jobs as announced by the enterprise. This marks the beginning of a senseless war of nerves. The worker is waiting for the note which he will present to the personnel department and thus be hired. The official waits from Personnel to be informed about job openings. This originates correspondence and the telephones keep ringing and time is lost. The result is a disparity among need, planning and utilization of cadres. On the municipal level, under the conditions of greater independence, we must strengthen the connection between plant and municipality instead of exclusively relying on associations and trusts."

Ivan Stoyanov, chief, Labor and Social Services Bureau, Varna Oblast People's Council: "Last summer the city employed some 6,000 seasonal workers, mainly in the tourist industry. The Varna people accounted for 70 percent and outsiders for the balance. The majority of such cadres remained here during the winter season as well, as workers in auxiliary facilities or else attended qualification courses. Bureaus in the municipalities of their places of residence are given the names of those who have left their jobs and people from Varna are offered different jobs. All in all, for the time being we have been solving adequately the problem of seasonal employment. We are concerned by something else. Who, for example, given the new administrative structure, will deal with young specialists, with developing skills. At the bureau, i.e., in the municipality, we are most familiar with manpower dynamics, scarcity of specialized skills, and so on. But what will our range of competences be and will we be assigned other functions?"

As to the other functions, we seem to have somewhat "forgotten" the primary units: the mayoralties. There, on the surface, matters seem to be the clearest but also...unsettled. The reason is...but let us hear the views of two mayors born at the beginning of the 1960s:

The Times Are Changing Us

Iskren Iliev, Izgrev Village mayor: "I do not delude myself by thinking that the new structure will facilitate the work of the primary manager. Conversely, a great deal of creativeness will be demanded of him concerning the specific problems of the settlement. Under the new conditions, I personally will be relying on initiative and the skill to lead the people and on the collective reasoning and strength in solving all problems."

Khristo Emilov, Cherna Village mayor: "Autonomy means to substantiate one's economic policy and to know that as a manager one is responsible to the people who have voted for him. We are at the beginning of the reorganizations which we must make ourselves instead of waiting for someone to give us instructions. The mayoralties must establish even closer ties with the municipality and think of the development of successful activities which will bring about the funds which are still lacking."

Therefore, we have optimism, plans, considerations and concerns. No other approach is possible. No more than 1 month has passed since the party documents were made public. This is too little to provide broad conclusions and summations. For that reason, we shall limit ourselves merely to a brief commentary on what we have heard and seen.

Unquestionably, the problems which concerned us in Varna Oblast are facing in their entire magnitude all managers. The existing base is suitable for their improvement and resolution. There is also the desire to do so. It is true that the new municipal managements face major problems. Now, when most of the functions are being transferred to the municipalities, this must take place not mechanically but by providing assistance and help. At the same time, we must properly assess what can be accomplished by the municipality and what is outside its possibilities. In turn, the municipality must live with the idea that it is already an independent unit which can no longer rely for everything on interference "from above." For everything which is being done, in the final account, is aimed at ensuring the well-being and prosperity of man.

Varna Oblast

Dimitur Dimitrov, first secretary, Varna Oblast BCP Committee. Kostadin Stanev, Filyu Chakurov and Strakhil Khristov, secretaries.

Dimitur Popov, chairman of the Varna Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Yovcho Gospodinov, Ivan Kostadinov, Marin Mikhov and Yordanka Kotseva, deputy chairmen. Shteryu Naumov, secretary.

Administrative center: Varna. The oblast includes all municipalities of the former Varna, Tolbukhin and Shumen Okrugs. The oblast's territory is 11,914.4 square

kilometers (10.7 percent of the country's territory), with a population of 978,551 (10.9 percent of the country's population). It generates 10.2 percent of the national income and accounts for 12.2 percent of the country's fixed assets.

The oblast has a strongly developed industrial-agrarian structure and transportation, economic tourism and servicing industry. It accounts for 8.4 percent of the country's industrial and 14.2 percent of its agricultural output. Chemical industry is dominant in the oblast and the Devnya Chemical Complex is the largest calcinated soda plant in the world.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader

22000008f Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 21 Oct 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Dimitur Dimitrov, first secretary of the Varna Oblast BCP Committee, by RABOTNICHESKO DELO Tolbukhin correspondent Nikolay Zhelev]

[Text] [Question] Comrade Dimitrov, the new administrative division of the country is now a fact. The provisional party and state managements have assumed their functions. In your view, what are the problems on which the Varna Oblast leadership has concentrated its efforts?

[Answer] They include all the tasks which proceed from the resolutions of the July BCP Central Committee Plenum. They are broader than the previous ones. They are related to the place and role of Varna Oblast in the national economic complex. Important areas of the chemical industry, shipbuilding, motor manufacturing, automobile manufacturing, electronics, household electrical appliances, economic tourism and agriculture are concentrated in the oblast. The oblast's population, which is almost 1 million strong, has been entrusted with 12.2 percent of the country's fixed assets and 15.4 percent of the arable land.

As anywhere else, in our oblast quite naturally, the most important thing today is the fulfillment of the plans by self-governing economic organizations. This is a task for the municipalities and labor collectives. The effort to fulfill the plan is a very familiar thing. However, it is now taking place under the conditions of self-government. This is an essentially new aspect which requires a change in the approach of party committees and organizations. They should no longer deal mainly with overall economic activities, depersonalize economic managements but must, consequently, assume full responsibility.

However, this does not mean in the least that their responsibility is reduced. They will be directly concerned with crucial problems, such as the use of scientific and technical progress. I am using this as an example, for the situation related to this is a matter of concern and truly requires the party's direct influence. We must no longer

report that our oblast is second in terms of the concentration of scientific and technical and engineering-application potential but last in the country in terms of the efficiency of scientific and technical developments. A sufficient number of party ways and means exist for influencing and changing the situation. They must be used creatively.

An orientation toward market production, which means providing more and more-varied goods for the population and meeting population needs better could be the other direct "economic" task of the party organizations.

These are merely two aspects the solution of which would substantially enhance the results of the activities of party authorities compared with their continuing to deal with the details of daily economic affairs. We realize that it will be difficult to abandon an inertia which took years to develop. However, this must be done. Our organizations must truly realize the meaning of "the other factors" in their functions and prove this through their actions. For example, they should concentrate purposefully and extensively on the patriotic, aesthetic and labor education of labor collectives. They must work on a planned basis on molding socialist personalities and rally them in labor collectives. It is thus that imperceptibly but logically we have touched upon the category of collectivism which, in turn, is the foundation of self-government, for all problems in this case are solved by the collective authorities—the economic councils and the general meetings.

Any general conclusion could be presented as follows: We must develop conscientious citizens, people with a new style of thinking manifested by their behavior and not their words, however beautiful they may be.

[Question] What could you say about restructuring within the party authorities and organizations themselves?

[Answer] Naturally, restructuring must be considered on this level as well. This means to seek other nuances in relations among party agencies. The party documents stipulate, but it would be useful to repeat it, that henceforth it is not tasks issued "from above" that will be decisive but the initiative-mindedness of organizations and party members themselves. We have a great deal of rich experience! At the same time it must be understood that there will be interference whenever some organizations spend too much time on the threshold of restructuring. We have party statutes and suitable forms of influence.

But let us return to the need for a demarcation of functions. The increased direct responsibility of economic managements for the fulfillment of plans means in no case that the responsibility of the party organizations has been reduced. There is no doubt that at the start there will be confusion, hesitations and search for suitable ways of working with people. It is certain that

errors will be made. This is natural. However, there will also be committees and organizations which will begin their work on a stable and firm basis and, in order to accelerate the process, the exchange of experience will become mandatory. The oblast party organization has well-trained cadres who will be our major support in solving all problems related to restructuring.

Furthermore, it is very important for the party committees and the bureaus of the primary organizations to take a firm stand against obsolete stereotypes, such as waiting and reinsurance. Their obligation is to make personal evaluations of cadres included in their rosters and to energize them and inspire in them faith and irreconcilability. The municipal party committees must gain the necessary self-confidence and assume the solution of all problems on municipal territory.

[Question] The municipalities which are within the oblast maintained friendly relations among each other in the past as well. Some enterprises operate on the basis of cooperated work. There are settlements which maintain traditional cultural and artistic ties among each other. What changes will be made in such relations?

[Answer] In this case the change will mean the expansion, intensification and advancement of ties, for here we shall have the rallying and regulating role of the oblast. Clearly, all obstacles of administrative nature must be eliminated and cooperation among enterprises in various municipalities will be made easier. Subjective hindrances should not exist.

New forms of cooperation will appear in the area of culture and the arts, thanks to the great possibilities of the oblast. I believe that reciprocal interest exists should we ask the Varna opera company to present all of its performances in Tolbukhin and Shumen or in the centers of other municipalities. Who would be displeased if we developed a more frequent exchange of performances by theaters and traveling art exhibits. Another area of aesthetic influence will be the concerts performed by the Varna and Shumen symphony orchestras, the Tolbukhin chamber orchestra, the Dobrudzha folk song and dance ensemble, wind instrument orchestras and amateur groups.

By the end of the last artistic season we witnessed concerts exchanged among different municipalities. This included joint performances by the symphony orchestras of Varna and Shumen with the Dobrudzhanski Zvutsi mixed choir. Integration will be expanded. They will enjoy the full support of the oblast leadership, for their educational charge is substantial. On the one hand, they change the participants themselves. On the other, they contribute to the aesthetic upbringing of the population.

We have a great potential in the area of cultural values. All that remains is to "present" them to the people more systematically. We must also bear in mind one feature of our territory: the Golden Sands and Albena Resorts

visited in the summer by thousands of people from more than 30 countries. We must also organize cultural activities. We must show to our guests greater values and convert them into friends of Bulgaria.

[Question] Comrade Dimitrov, in this conversation we discussed merely some of the problems which will be implemented in Varna Oblast. Could you sum up the main feature.

[Answer] Reconstruction is at the base of everything. It must become the destiny and responsibility of everyone.

05003

Lovech Oblast

Description, Comments by Local Officials
2200008g Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 7

[Materials prepared by Tsvetana Veneva and Venelina Gocheva]

[Text] Municipality, oblast and renovation are topics of a dialogue with the young, related to their spiritual needs, interests, preferences and creative manifestations. This is the topic which we are seeking and discovering these days on the territory of Lovech Oblast. It is natural for our report to begin in a youth house. It could be equally located in Pleven, Gabrovo, Aleksandrovo, Elena, Gorna Oryakhovitsa, Dryanovo, Tryavna, or elsewhere. Everywhere we come across the conviction (and the good wish) that this must be the center of thoughts, talents, creativity, debates, plays, imagination, daring and dreams of young people. We know, however (we shall not go back to familiar analyses and statements) that the youth house is not the most lively spot in our municipality. Why? How? In any case, it is a fact.

A Meeting That Was Not Held That Led Us To Meet an Unforeseen Consultant

We are at the discotheque of the youth home in Lovech. A meeting has been announced with the actors and the producers who are currently filming in the city an episode from the film "Under the Yoke." The place is lively and the youth home is crowded. But then "you must know how to wait, you must be able to wait...." The time of this little song has gone! The young people realize quite clearly that to be lied to by people one seeks and loves is no proof of love! It is not even bitterness. They have become used to this. Nonetheless, since this is a discotheque they will dance a little and will forget.

"I disagree! The blame must have a specific address, individual and name. I do not know what meeting was supposed to be held. It would have been wonderful to know. We have so much to discuss with the young people in this area. I have many personal matters which connect me with Lovech and Gorna Oryakhovitsa. I have many

creative friends in the entire oblast. Now is the time for getting together, for ideas, for youthful daring and innovation in art. I was referred to somewhere as the 40-year old optimist. This is inaccurate. Youth is a question of quality and not age."

Our conversation with Stefan Danailov took place in the lobby of the hotel, preceding our trip to one of the creative laboratories of the young artistic creative intelligentsia in the oblast, where ideas, criteria, ambitions, arguments, and thoughts are born, where there is confirmation and rejection and innovation, where art is created.

Before It Was Born....

The street! Before the street was born there were no sidewalks. It was this unexpected "artistic image" that became part of the topic discussed by Elena Ivanova, Pleven Okrug Komsomol Committee instructor.

"Who says that a sociological study is expensive? It cost us 2,000 leva. We must surmount the barrier of fear of engaging in such studies of the interests and needs of the young. They have rejected many of the forms and the content of what we have offered to them. They are seeking real hobby clubs headed by the most noted and most capable representatives of the MKhTI."

Stefan Danailov: "Yes, it is absolutely mandatory to start at this point, with a serious scientific study of the tastes, preferences, interests and needs of the young. However, is it exclusively the job of psychologists and art sociologists to seek this kind of strong feedback? Many of the MKhTI members inherited from their older colleagues the lack of ability to communicate with one another and the diminishing need of communicating with their public. Yet it is there and there above all, in the course of a steady and equal dialogue between creators and between the stage and the public that we find the constant charge for art. Meetings, meetings, meetings with people. Such is the criterion. This must be done without posing or conventionality, without scenarios and stipulations, and the only translation should be into the language of youth. In this respect the oblast offers a great deal of most varied opportunities as a territory of rich historical and cultural legacy and a center of comprehensive and original creative potential."

The picture! Before the picture is born comes the concept of beauty! And in order to preserve, to sense and steadily to develop this concept we visit the studio of Lovech painter Ivan Vasilev. Many people will think, in his connection, of his friendship and creative cooperation with Teofan Sokerov, whom everyone knows (the historical temple on Buzludzha, the Turnovo Patriarchy...). Ivan acknowledges that the Lovech painters' group has been in a state of latent contemplation for quite some time and has fallen quite behind the works of colleagues in Pleven and Veliko Turnovo:

"Ours is an honest craft. No true painter (by vocation) can ignore something that is more beautiful and better. In that sense a permanent oblast exhibit in anyone of the municipalities would include the works of various painters. This will be a mirror of one's own growth, to be used as a measure of comparison, a measure of ambition and possibility, a proof of self-realization, if you wish. A criterion is something important."

Varosha begins outside the studio. Two girls sitting on the pavement are drawing. They are Veska Toteva and Veselina Vasileva. Both are from Lisets Village and both are in the ninth "B" grade of the Secondary Specialized Applied Arts School in Troyan. These two would like to go into the studio of a "great" artist and look at the way the magic of color is created; they would like to meet young actors, writers and architects; they would like for many people to be on the square and to have painters among them, to paint in the open; they would like...

"And they would be right!" Turnovo painter Pen'o Penev said. "It is a good thing that an increasing number of young painters are teaching in our Graphic Arts Department. This is also a way of getting closer to the secondary schools, for whereas we may generate ideas for a new creative contact, it is precisely they that will determine the actual results of such interaction. It is precisely they who will become seriously involved in molding the aspect of the culture in an oblast. This is our responsibility today and theirs tomorrow."

At this point, Nayden Naydenov, third-year art academy student, objected. He disagreed with the concept of "tomorrow." With the entire passion of his 19 years he argued that even the youngest are ready as of today to assume an even greater responsibility. He would like the municipal leadership to grant them this right and they would not be afraid to work. Take the example of the "Flower Show" which took place on the square of the old town. The latest celebration of this original holiday proved what the young creators want and what they can do. Why should Lovech not become the center of pantomime theater? Every year, on that day and on that square people could perform and speak about pantomime. This would take place in the natural space needed for such an art....

Is such an idea strange?

Stefan Danailov: "What could be strange in the wish of the young to be young and to create modern art through their youth! We speak of synthesis. This is the synthesis of art in its oblast variant: ideas create ideas, daring creates daring and the number of supporters grows as we experiment and achieve real results. This would be an experiment involving a creative risk and not a word behind which one could conceal failure."

The role! Before a role is born one must enter a theater. One must not simply cross the main entrance of any theater but it is one's personal muse that would lead the

person into his own theater. That is the way in which the actor Plamen Dimitrov, from the Lovech theater, conceives of the possibilities offered by the oblast structures. Perhaps a general arts council would use its collective mind and "brainstorms" in guiding and helping the theaters in the municipalities in the search and development of their own originality and their own style and aspect. Therefore, both the theater companies and the audiences will enter the theater as equal interlocutors and creators of this type of art. Why should the oblast not have its own youth theater in which the possibilities of having a modern, contemporary vanguard art would be explored? No repertory plan should be imposed so that all theaters "alternate" in their performances variants of one and the same play but aspire to promote greater variety and greater contemporaneity.

There are meetings, meetings and more meetings!

There are ideas, ideas, and more ideas!

What could we wish for them?

Stefan Danailov: "We wish for the creators to create! We wish for the young to be young! Art is like friendship. It gives a great deal and demands only one thing, reciprocity. Art is for people who are optimists, for if you do not believe, nothing happens. This also means that art is above all the territory of the young. We did understand one another: youth is a matter of quality and not age!"

Lovech Oblast

Nikola Tsonev, first secretary of the Oblast BCP Committee. Dimitur Balukov, Stoyno Stoynov and Gencho Popov, secretaries.

Kuncho Kunev, Lovech Oblast People's Council Executive Committee Chairman. Khristo Stanev, Lyubomir Draganov, Georgi Gatev and Bogomil Karadzhov, deputy chairmen. Andrey Andreev, secretary.

Administrative center: Lovech. It covers the territories of the former Lovech, Pleven, Gabrovo and Veliko Turnovo Okrugs. Area: 15,182.5 square kilometers (13.7 percent of the country's territory); population: 1,074,810 (12 percent of the Bulgarian population). The oblast generates 14.4 percent of the national income and accounts for 12.1 percent of the country's fixed assets.

The oblast is one of the largest administrative-territorial units in terms of territory and population. It is emphatically industrial-agrarian in structure, with a developed service and transportation activities. It accounts for 13.6 percent of industry and 14.8 percent of agricultural output in the country. The oblast's machine building, electrical engineering and electronic industries account for 33.1 percent of the sectorial output.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader
2200008g Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 7 Oct 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Nikola Tsonev, first secretary, Lovech Oblast BCP Committee, by Nedyalko Atanasov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO Lovech correspondent]

[Text] [Question] The new territorial communities—the oblasts—were created only about a month ago. This means that no full impression can be gained as of yet. Nonetheless, in what directions have the initial steps been taken?

[Answer] Yes, the time is too short for us to survey such a large territory, not to mention for singling out its problems completely and absolutely clearly. However, in the first days one such step was quite apparent and, I would say, quite tangibly so: the emotions and sentiments of the people, triggered by the new administrative-territorial division of the country. They were quite strongly manifested in some areas in the oblast. That is why the first step we took as a party leadership was to rally the party members and the entire population in the effort to shape and develop a feeling of community, of belonging to the oblast.

With patience and arguments we set aside all parochial moods which essentially distract us from the main thing: the implementation of the party's socioeconomic strategy. To this effect we organized a single policy day for the oblast. In the course of the discussions, voices calling for unity assumed clear priority. The people are seeking a material expression for their feelings of belonging. They indicate and suggest how, for example, in the new community should important economic, social and spiritual problems be solved. This is yet another indication of the way under the new conditions, based on the revolutionary criteria of July, the creative energy of the people is released.

[Question] You mentioned economics. Could you describe its material-technical and cadre potential? And, which is most necessary at this time, are there conditions and prerequisites for achieving a balance between production and technological relations?

[Answer] In terms of many and important indicators, Lovech Oblast is among the largest territorial communities in the country. Let me point out that it generates 15.5 percent of the national income and accounts for 13.6 percent of the industrial and 14.8 percent of the agricultural output of the country. Concentrated on its territory are major capacities of the machine building, household electronic appliances, and chemical and food industries and many other activities of national importance. Naturally, the efficient use of this base faces us with urgent problems and new and much greater responsibilities. The first step which we are taking is aimed at improving production relations among plants, enterprises and combines within the oblast. Our aim is to

combine and make maximal use of the possibilities of specialists in scientific institutes and development bases of higher educational institutions in order to be able to improve structures and technologies. In our view, this is the main, the decisive factor in upgrading quality, efficiency and competitiveness of goods. Let me add to these first steps our idea of establishing better business relations and contacts among trade organizations and commodity producers. This is necessary in order to ensure the steady study of population needs and, on this basis, better coordination of efforts in increasing the production of consumer goods.

I am noting these first activities in order to emphasize that we are seeking means, ways and methods of ensuring the full utilization of established capacities on oblast territory. The main thing is to formulate the strategic trends in the development of the individual sectors in the oblast economy during the 9th 5-year period. To this effect we shall continue our discussions with superior authorities, organizations and scientific institutes in order to determine the problems of combines, plants and enterprises. We are expecting greater cooperation on the part of the economic trusts, for so far their presence has not been felt tangibly.

[Question] Unquestionably, these are the July criteria and the July exigency within the renovation process. But what is the force which will contribute to their implementation?

[Answer] This force is the 109,000 party members of the oblast party organization. Their efforts are concentrated on the fast and efficient shifting of the revolutionary spirit of the July Plenum to the primary party organizations and labor collectives. The single purpose is to implement the great ideas in great actions with the help of a variety of ways and means of ideological and organizational work.

The initiated accountability and election campaign in the party is a good foundation for achieving this objective. Nearly 650 meetings have already been held by primary party organizations and in another more than 1,500 party groups, indicating that, although slowly, positive changes are taking place. Also positive is the study and evaluation of facts and phenomena in terms of the formulation and adoption of accurate decisions aimed at restructuring and renovation.

We try to avoid petty supervision of municipal party committees in their efforts to create an atmosphere of fuller expression of the independent nature of party work. In more specific terms, this means that the initiative, creativity and actions of the party members must be concentrated on the main problems of our development: the accelerated application of the achievements of scientific and technical progress, the quality of new growth, and orientation of the production process toward the needs of the market and the individual, and upgrading his political and labor activeness in self-government.

At the risk of repeating myself, let me emphasize that we are trying to assert the type of work style and method which would allow the full development of the forces and possibilities of municipal party committees. This is being done without instructions, conferences, regulations and prescriptions. We are shifting the center of gravity to the primary party organizations and the labor collectives. We are particularly concentrating on cadres. We realize that our initiated project can be successful only with the help of properly trained cadres. The criteria in evaluating them should be their actions, work and individual contribution to restructuring.

[Question] I had the opportunity to attend some of the initial meetings held by the oblast party and state leadership. They made it extremely clear to me what great concern is triggered by the implementation of this year's plan. That is why let me ask you: Is there the danger that the oblast party committee would turn into yet another plan dispatcher?

[Answer] No. Our objective, in accordance with the stipulations, is to make the oblast party committee free from extraneous functions related to the implementation of economic and social tasks. From the very first days, and now for the past month, we have tried to create objective prerequisites for such functions to be assumed by the competent state and economic authorities. That is why let me say that our entire activity is aimed at mobilizing and promoting the responsibility of state and economic authorities for the strict implementation of the plan for scientific and technical and socioeconomic development of the oblast this year. We are formulating such requirements concerning these authorities also in terms of the formulation of the plan for next year and for the balance of the 5-year period. Our evaluation of the results achieved so far in the implementation of the plan has not been based on daily achievements but on problems. The more important thing is that at that meeting with the party aktiv we determined the urgent tasks related to the practical restructuring of the oblast economy in accordance with the requirements and resolutions of the July BCP Central Committee Plenum.

Our area, however, is noted for its rich cultural traditions and active spiritual life. There are four legitimate professional theaters in the oblast and a people's opera and symphony orchestra in Pleven. We have a House of Humor and Satire in Gabrovo. We have a rich stock of works of graphic art in the six art galleries and more than 20 collections. That is why our main task is for the artistic values to come out of their closed territorial and departmental limits. It has turned out that in their repertory the theater companies include the same plays for the same season. It is obvious that with such a repertory the range of the audience in the oblast will be limited. We are combining efforts also to ensure the fuller use of the works of graphic art. We are currently preparing a major exhibit in honor of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which will be traveling throughout the oblast.

Both what we have accomplished and what we are about to accomplish lead me to conclude that the party members and working people in Lovech Oblast will welcome the National Party Conference with high results and suitably continue to fulfill their obligations.

05003

Mikhaylovgrad Oblast

Description, Comments by Local Officials
22000008h Sofia *NARODNA MLADEZH* in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 8

[Materials prepared by Tatyana Vasileva and Galina Paskaleva]

[Text] When we asked specialists at the Mikhaylovgrad Oblast People's Council for data which would indicate the features of the new oblast, they answered us that, in their view, we were too late. However, after it became clear that we were interested less in the geographic than the socioeconomic features, it turned out that we had come too early. The material was not ready.

The good things began with our meeting with Trifon Pashov, Mikhaylovgrad BCP Committee first secretary, whom we asked for a comment or opinion for this page. He explained his refusal mainly with the statement that we should not, as in the past, call for the person at the top of the pyramid to judge, since restructuring has started "from the bottom up."

Let us consider the following: a fact does not become more or less real because of the statement of one instead of another member of society. The problem lies elsewhere: how to retain features which we need today and how to eliminate those which hinder us. Everyone has the right to have an opinion on this problem, as well as a responsibility. We say this in support of the answer and to those who, in the course of our encounters, asked us: "Who sent you to see me? I am nobody."

A minor departure: Everyone creates his own individuality and determines whether concepts concerning himself, his work and his obligations are right (or wrong). Without this, without a sense of one's own individuality and significance, without this feeling expressed in the street, at home or at the work place, today restructuring is impossible.

Our overall impression of the oblast may be expressed as follows: the time to act has come for some, to think for others and, for others again, simply to wait. The following situation developed at the mathematics high school in Vidin: two candidates applied for the position of chemistry teacher. The students themselves made their choice by secret vote. A contract was drawn up at the Komsomol municipal committee in Mezdra, on the basis of which the youth house is transferred under the jurisdiction of the Komsomol organization of the Plant for

Metal Ceramic Goods. Henceforth, it is the Komsomol members who will furnish and manage the property and seek ways of filling the leisure time of the young. But...

According to Bogomil Spiridonov, Lom Municipal Komsomol Committee, "A step forward may be followed by two steps back." The sole reason is that sometimes in order to advance one must begin by retreating. A retreat, but at what cost? It is in this sense that we would like to quote the opinion expressed by Sasho Angelov, first secretary of the Vidin Municipal Komsomol Committee: "Sometimes we are particularly demanding of the state cadres in the committee while showing condescension toward the others. Under the conditions of the self-government of the municipal Komsomol organization, we must adopt identical criteria for accomplishments or nonaccomplishments toward everyone."

No Retreat Is Possible

Speaking of criteria, Bogomil Spiridonov also cited as an example Komsomol societies which are unable to abandon routine in their work:

"This style had been imposed upon the societies and had been instilled for many years. Now, however, when restrictions have been lifted and when we would like to dismantle the system and abandon traditionalism, the societies remain within their old framework. Some of them do not know how to come out of it; others are simply unwilling to do so and others again consider the present situation more convenient. This will change but I do not think that we shall be successful immediately, at the first accountability and election campaign after the 15th Komsomol Congress, although this will give us an organizational opportunity to gain positions in the area of self-government. We are recommending more candidacies and greater discussions. For the time being, however, no one is preventing societies and organizations from promoting candidates both 'from above' and 'their own.'"

The fact that the forthcoming accountability and elections conferences in the youth union is the "hot spot" in Komsomol discussions is explainable, for the method which will be followed in holding meetings in Komsomol societies will be a test of the maturity of intentions as well as our readiness for self-government. The fact that there is thought of a new approach, of breaking down the old system, is more than a fact. It is reality, which so far was frequently identified with inflated reports and references and averaged indicators but which now must be seen as it is, differing in the various places and, possibly, less welcomed than what we have become accustomed to hear from business presidiums and celebration rostrums.

We find the desire for change also in the words of Tanya Kamenova, secretary of the Komsomol committee of the Trade Economic Directorate in Vidin. We find it in the intention to submit for more extensive discussion the

candidacies for the Komsomol aktiv, and to avoid the traditional three-part accountability reports. It is true that in those reports, once again, it will be a question of scientific and technical creativity of young people, ideological education and the organizational condition of the societies. But let something be clear now: the strictly youth contribution to the solution of common problems of the Trade Economic Directorate and the specific problems of young people working there using strictly Komsomol ways and means.

In support of the theory of partnership let us cite another example based on our discussion with Valya Tsvetanova, Komsomol society secretary at the Public Catering organization in Vidin:

"We have solved and will continue to solve organizational problems of the society," Valya said. "Administrative and financial problems are not our competence. In those matters we need the Public Catering administrative management. Perhaps we shall be blamed for lacking adequate initiative or persistence but we would rather not be placed always in the role of petitioners. Youth problems should not be considered last in discussion agenda. When problems of vital importance to young people are discussed, such as changing jobs, changing the shift of a mother of a small child, our view should be sought as well."

The equivocal nature of the "other side" was mentioned also by Bogomil Spiridonov: "At the Purvi May Plant we have a society with more than 100 Komsomol members. Is this realistic? They cannot gather together, and let us not even mention engage in individual work. How can we determine the optimal sizes of youth labor collectives and of the society, when the practice followed in setting up (or dismantling) the same was cumbersome: first we had to go through the municipal Komsomol committee! We must determine the nature of the partnership of the Komsomol within the self-government system. Something else which is unclear to me is how precisely will self-financing take place where the labor collective does not consist entirely of young people and the people are dispersed among various shops and shifts. What will make the other members of the collective vote the funds needed for youth activities?"

Two Views of One Problem

The answer was provided by Mladen Mladenov, first secretary of the Mezdra Municipal BCP Committee: "People have different views on assistance. It is one thing to 'help' when we are short of even basic facilities; it is another thing to help a person who is waiting for someone else to do his own job. I say this because I would like, in discussing the materials of the Municipal BCP Committee Plenum (which was held on 25 September, while the emphasis was still on output) to make one thing clear. We shall discuss problems of the party's guidance of the Komsomol or our own work with young people and not the activities of the municipal Komsomol

organization in general. It is this 'minor' difference which will be put on the agenda of the plenum, in a spirit of self-criticism, with which we are approaching the new type of 'partnership.' On our part we shall help, we shall insist that the question of the material facilities for young people be solved. As to the content of the leisure time of Komsomol members in that base, that will be the concern of the municipal Komsomol committee. It will have the freedom of creativity and the right to engage in specific initiatives."

One question which has been raised for discussion: in a city such as Lom, which has economic and cultural traditions, the implementation of the housing program is at the zero stage. Manpower is shifting from one enterprise to another (going even outside the municipality) and eight municipal villages have been classified as declining. The Komsomol secretary explained that only three of his fellow classmates have stayed in Lom. The fact that as a whole the municipality generates annually as much as 280 million leva of general industrial output in itself does not solve the social problems of the population. Konstantin Nikolov, first secretary of the municipal party committee, believes that the change must begin with the working conditions. This would retain the manpower in the enterprises. Such steps have already been drafted and are part of the implementation of the annual socioeconomic program, for as Nikolov emphasizes, restructuring and plan implementation go hand in hand. The task now is to formulate plans not only in terms of value but also in physical terms. The steps, the implementation of which is controlled by the municipal party leadership, the council and the Komsomol, are aimed at accelerating the growth rates. Suffice it to point out that the stressed schedules in industry alone ensure, on a monthly basis, between 10 and 35 percent of the implementation of the annual plan for volume and net output. The conclusion is that the labor collectives undertake, in the final months of the year, to fulfill another 50 percent of an annual plan.

Similar problems are raised concerning the future of the Atomna Energetika Combine in Kozloduy. Currently the combine employs more than 3,000 people; 509 of them are specialists with university training. This is a rather low percentage compared with the requirements and scale of power production. They are particularly short of specialists in electronics, automation and control systems of the technological process. In our discussions with Petur Stoyanov, first secretary of the Vratsa Oblast Komsomol Committee, one suggestion was heard: Why should Kozloduy not be granted the special status of municipality? Such practices have been used in the Soviet Union: the territories of nuclear electric power plants are given the special status of nuclear power cities. In the case of Kozloduy this would apply not only to the territory where the "peaceful atom" is used but also the youth city.

The conclusion is that the labor collectives in Mikhaylovgrad Oblast expect to take over the property. The new

situation will trigger a new enthusiasm and a new initiative, which is close to earth, necessary and related to the interests of the people. At the Vidin Chemical Combine, the Komsomol members in the auxiliary shops suggested that more openness be given to new developments which would meet current requirements. Today in frequent cases it is not major discoveries and rationalizations that determine end results but small and flexible improvements and additional solutions. Such is the competition of ideas which we need today according to the young people at the chemical combine. There is a need for ideas in production and in spending the leisure time and concerning the life of the Komsomol society.

An argument in support of this is the view expressed by Daniel Kolovski, first secretary of the Mezdra Municipal Komsomol Committee:

"We are in favor of the type of structure which will eliminate privileged Komsomol societies. No priority will be given to individual labor collectives. If everyone is put on an equal initial footing we shall see whether the primary labor collective or society is politically mature. We shall see whether it has chosen the type of leadership which will give 'life' to youth initiative."

Mikhaylovgrad Oblast

Trifon Pashov, first secretary of Mikhaylovgrad Oblast BCP Committee. Svetozar Petrushkov, Petur Nikolov and Stoycho Banov, secretaries.

Goran Ninov, chairman of the Mikhaylovgrad Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Geno Toshkov, Aleksandur Petkov, Ventsislav Angelovski and Lyubimka Daskalova, deputy chairmen. Stefan Nikolov, secretary.

Administrative center: Mikhaylovgrad. The oblast covers the territories of the former Vratsa, Mikhaylovgrad and Vidin Okrugs, with an area of 10,570.1 square kilometers (9.5 percent of the country's territory) and a population of 674,438 (7.5 percent of the country's population). It generates 6.4 percent of the national income and accounts for 7.0 percent of the country's fixed assets.

The oblast accounts for 7.4 percent of the industrial and 10 percent of the agricultural output of the country. The Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant accounts for more than 30 percent of domestic electric power.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader

22000008h Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 9 Nov 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Trifon Pashov, first secretary, Mikhaylovgrad Oblast BCP Committee, by Neofit Petkov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO Mikhaylovgrad correspondent]

[Text] [Question] Comrade Pashov, in terms of territory and population Mikhaylovgrad Oblast is the smallest in the country. What is its main feature?

[Answer] It is quite natural to consider that the decision to create Mikhaylovgrad Oblast was a perspicacious action which confirmed the established unity of historical, natural-geographic, economic and social conditions of the present three okrugs: Vratsa, Mikhaylovgrad, and Vidin. It would be no exaggeration to say that this northwestern part of Bulgaria is the most compact in all respects. Although so far conventionally divided into three okrugs, the people of this area have always been united. It is a population famous for its freedom-loving spirit which does not tolerate suppression. Inhabiting the territory bordered by the Timok, the Iskur, the Danube and Stara Planina, it experienced the same type of united struggle: the Chiprovtsi and other uprisings in Northwestern Bulgaria, the September 1923 epic and the antifascist resistance.

The commonality of the interests of this population is manifested also in the economy, in which integration relations have long existed between Vidin, the Avram Stoyanov Machine Building Combine in Mikhaylovgrad and others. Some of them have their branches located in the three former okrugs. A number of similar examples could be cited in the area of culture, where such informal and spontaneously developing ties at first were subsequently legalized in contracts, once again confirming the commonality of interests.

[Question] How would you sum up the strategic problems of the oblast?

[Answer] Traditions and experience in the production of economically important items have been developed in the machine building, electronic, chemical, textile, and food industries and a major sector, such as agricultural production, for which we have very good conditions. Preparations are under way for the elaboration of a long-term strategy for the development of Mikhaylovgrad Oblast until the year 2000.

We pay particular attention to upgrading the efficiency and pace of the economy on the basis of scientific and technical progress following the science-software-computer chain of updating and restructuring assets, making maximal use of local raw materials, use of lasers and biotechnologies, and developing culture and tourism. At this point, however, let me emphasize a special feature: it is imperative in our case to eliminate disproportion in education and training of cadres by optimizing the network of schools and opening a higher educational institution.

Decisive changes must be made also in cultural life. Currently the oblast has three professional theaters, two symphony orchestras, three writers' societies and societies of painters, journalists and architects.

It has become necessary to ensure the even closer cooperation and specialization of the capacities which have been developed along the Vidin-Mikhaylovgrad-Vratsa-Mezdra-Roman line for the production of more machine

building industry items. We are already taking steps to improve the efficiency of production and social ties among municipalities and within the framework of the oblast. I am using the word "framework" conventionally, for we shall not only not erect barriers between us and Sofia and Lovech Oblasts and Sofia City but will cooperate with them.

[Question] In what areas will party work be directed?

[Answer] Applying new approaches, and ways and means of political work, we must release the energy of the party members and all working people. We are currently assisting the okrug and municipal committees toward the most expedient assignment of cadres in the municipalities. Such cadres must be energetic, knowledgeable, capable and honest.

Let me share with you that the accountability and election party meetings are taking place in an interesting and efficient manner. In their statements the party members are suggesting ways of further work. They are criticizing shortcomings and corruption. I saw no ostentatiousness anywhere I went.

Under the new conditions created by self-government, the immediate task of the party organizations is to act as the political guarantor in municipalities and labor collectives. They must influence the self-governing people through their work methods, issue political directions, persuade, control cadres and promote criticism and self-criticism, which is achieved with the help of the party members within the self-governing authorities.

We are increasingly concentrating party work in the primary organizations in order to promote internal party democracy as a model for the labor collective. The party organizations set the tone in the shaping of this new political climate.

[Question] In this time of change, how does the oblast party leadership work with the municipal BCP committees? What new features will be introduced in the party style and approach?

[Answer] The municipalities have undergone a long period of development. Although in our case they have not changed territory, today they have acquired a new content. This stems from their natural conversion to self-governing communities. It is precisely in this area that the oblast leadership is helping the municipal party authorities so that all municipalities may become viable units sooner.

We are trying to enhance the role of the municipal party committees as the direct political managers of self-governing territorial units, which can help independently to solve the problems of their socioeconomic development. The oblast party leadership will continue to assist the municipal party committees in the efforts to generate

new skills and approaches and to develop their own style in surmounting negative demographic phenomena and individual stagnation processes, particularly in agriculture.

It is not accidental that I emphasize agriculture. This is a traditional sector with a rich potential which, however, has not been entirely brought to light. The oblast offers excellent prerequisites for the production of grain, fruits, vegetables, grapes and livestock goods. We have in our territory two scientific research institutes, the one for corn in Knezha, and for milk in Vidin, as well as an agricultural experimental station in Lom. This too is important. Last autumn we completed the building of the Mikhaylovgrad Dam. We are continuing the development of the irrigation system, which is a major task which needs scope for initiative and creativity.

In order to solve problems under the new circumstances, we need a new style and new approaches. Our aspiration is to enhance the role and political responsibility of the municipal party committees and the primary party organizations in order to eliminate the so far misunderstood nature of party leadership through petty-supervision and taking over the functions of state and economic authorities. We shall be promoting a businesslike work style.

Cadre policy, surmounting routine and inertia within ourselves and in the leading cadres on all levels, the low criteria in assessing achievements and insufficiently high objectives are being considered extensively at the accountability and election meetings. The aspiration is to surmount practicalism and stereotype, intensify scientific management methods and promote a modern way of thinking and enhancement of knowledge.

Forecasters say that weather changes in the country begin in Northwestern Bulgaria. Why should we not be the first also to initiate changes in the creation of a new quality of life and a new socialist morality and new model of socialism in our country?

05003

Plovdiv Oblast

Description, Concerns of Smaller Communities
2200008i Sofia *NARODNA MLADEZH* in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 9

[Materials prepared by Mariya Stoyanova and Kostadin Tsvetanov]

[Text] Plovdiv-Purvomay; Plovdiv-Batak; Plovdiv-Luki and Zlatograd. This is a small section if we travel in the oblast. There are problems of new developments, concerns and expectations, hopes and doubts, expressed by managers and young people in the municipalities, concerning leisure time, cultural recreation, development of mass physical culture, sports and tourism. There are conditions, prospects and problems, both inherited from

the past and to come. The belief is that a territory with a healthy way of life is one in which there are no blank spots for small and large municipalities.

Plovdiv Oblast has very rich material facilities for recreation and relaxation. For example, it is in first place in the country in terms of the number of tourist huts. Its territory includes resort and tourist complexes such as Pamporovo, Tsigov Chark and Buntovna. It has a large number of youth houses and clubs and sports complexes. Something else is true, however, that not every city (not to mention village) has its youth club and sports grounds. For example, there are only four youth houses for all the settlements of the old Smolyan Okrug. Even if we add to this the number of clubs (such as a little hut granted the status of club in Chepelare) the result would not be all that happy. Here are the questions: Will the small municipalities have the strength to surmount the lack of material facilities? Furthermore, in the case of eventual misfortunes afflicting the municipal budget, will the first "cut" affect funds appropriated for sports and cultural recreation of the population?

The leadership of Purvomay Municipality was categorical: "Of course, we are optimists! Absolutely no question! Whatever the case, conditions for recreation and spending the leisure time will be improved. Today it is we who shall determine and decide what type of project to build and what steps to take. We have already discussed what we can accomplish without any further waiting."

The first change is a fact: the cultural workers' club, which has not been efficiently used, is being converted into a youth discotheque. The idea has been launched that the existing youth club must develop an organizational structure similar to that of a youth house. "We have the right," said Petur Koev, chairman of the Purvomay Municipal People's Council, "to decide what type of project we shall build and what we shall not." There are many ideas and not only ideas. It is planned that before the end of the year construction will be undertaken of a sports hall, similar to the Stroitel Hall in Plovdiv, with 500 seats.

Batak Municipality: Not one or two but 120 rest homes are located here within an 80-kilometer radius. On the other hand, we are also familiar with the problems: in the summer months, for example, the population here increases by a factor of 6 whereas trade supplies remain virtually the same. There is a shortage of nonalcoholic beverages and the production facilities for such items here must be updated, which requires funds.

"Will the municipality become stronger?" said Aleksandur Shutev, chairman of the Batak Municipal People's Council Executive Committee, repeating our question. "Naturally, it will. Having at our disposal a greater share of the income, we shall have the practical possibility of solving many problems. We are currently drafting a new plan for the urban construction of the resort and solving

problems of water supplies, sewers, electrification and communications. We have also suggested that the various enterprises throughout the country could cooperate in jointly building their own recreation centers."

Especially as far as the recreation and leisure time of young people in Batak are concerned, they have at their disposal a new and beautiful culture house, and two coffee shops for young people, which will be furnished in a modern fashion. They are currently building a sports stadium and the construction of a sports hall will be undertaken.

Initiative plus clear objects. This simple little formula for success has not turned into a credo everywhere. We also came across cases of waiting and "listening around." For example, we wanted to be told how will our national and international Pamporovo resort develop, and what must be done in the immediate future. However, all that we found out from its leadership is that its jurisdictional affiliation has not been determined.

Many problems exist concerning young people and, particularly, sports facilities in the Smolyan area. Many of the playgrounds and sports stadiums have been neglected and are crying for someone to take over. The explanation is the old one: there are no funds for maintenance and repairs.

Naturally, we should have no illusions. Not everything will immediately develop smoothly. A variety of problems will appear, which must be solved "on the run." Obviously, the municipalities must cooperate and combine efforts in solving a number of problems. Not least, naturally, is the belief that in terms of the municipal managements the concern for creating conditions and possibilities for a sensible and worthwhile use of leisure time neither is nor could be the last concern. The strict measure of the necessary acceleration will govern here any assessment of the situation.

No Outside Help Expected

The road from Asenovgrad to Luki goes through Yugovo. It is described as the Honey Road. It is said that once in the past a Yugovo priest married off his daughter to the technician who maintained the road and gave him an additional 15 jerricans of honey to have the road take a "small" turn and pass through Yugovo. Well, here we are directly on the topic of the municipality, as the basic self-governing community and the question of its dialogue with the state and economic organizations, and its private initiative.... Apparently, all of this is no recent discovery. It is a very old tradition of our people, to do everything possible for their native area, a tradition which has assumed the nature of a legend, of a page in the history of all of our cities and villages.

The major problems of the small municipality are neither new nor unfamiliar. No one is nurturing the illusion that under the conditions of self-government they will be

solved simply by themselves, for just looking at the road to Luki will reveal its pitiful condition. Furthermore, it is a dangerous road, with potholes and dangerous sections. Here the conclusions concerning the difficult access to the centers of cultural life, the remoteness, and the presumed unwillingness of young people to remain in the area become somehow basic and not entirely optimistic. We came across villages without young people, schools or children. Old villages. We also saw employees and workers traveling in the morning from the big to the small city, commuters who, although working here, remain alien to the place.

The total Luki settlement system includes 900 members of the Komsomol. Most of them, however, are not residents of the little town and its surrounding villages. During their time off they go home to spend their leisure time there and to seek possibilities for cultural recreation, sports and tourism.... What about the others? What about the overall organization of Komsomol life? Luki does have its own modern youth house and a trade union house of culture. It also has organizers and enthusiasts but....

"For a long time we have wanted to set up a dancing and entertainment music group at the Youth House. However, we have no managers. There are only two people in Luki with musical training: a music teacher at the school and a conductor at the house of culture. Yet we have many people who would like to join such groups. We would also like to set up a 'Bulgarian Musical Youth' club, but how to do it?" (Steska Delipavlova, youth house director).

Indeed, how? With paid instructors? What about the funds for their salaries? Who would agree to travel twice weekly for 30 leva monthly? Several times annually the Smolyan drama theater comes to perform here. This is substantial, from the viewpoint of the theater. But what about from the viewpoint of the young people here? A coffee-theater group was invited last season. It was interesting and original. People are still talking about the performance. They are also talking about the way private donations had to be collected to meet the full fee of the actors.

To the local members of the Komsomol self-government, self-initiative and relying on their own forces are no new concepts or work methods. What is new is that the municipality has become part of Plovdiv Oblast, which has brought about universal and categorical satisfaction. "Even from the geographic viewpoint, Plovdiv and Asenovgrad are closer to us than Smolyan (30 instead of 88 kilometers, and 1 instead of 3 hours traveling)." Let us not even mention the fact that the link with the previous okrug center was provided by a single bus which took off in the morning and returned in the evening. The weaknesses, imperfections and artificial obstacles were noted a long time ago.

However, we can safely say now that the municipality is displaying a new way of thinking.

It is no secret to anyone in Luki that the local physical culture and sports facilities are extremely inadequate. This question was raised sharply at last year's accountability and election Komsomol meetings and conferences.

The solution: The municipal BCP committee and municipal people's council held a referendum (in March) which unanimously proved the advantages of the idea of population self-taxation—2 percent of general income—in favor of building a sports complex consisting of a roofed hall and a sports stadium. The complex is currently being designed. Its construction will be undertaken at the beginning of 1988.

But speaking of the self-initiative of the Komsomol members in the municipality, one way or another we turn to the current situation. Here many people are convinced that the obstacles can be surmounted exclusively through their own efforts, by enriching the forms of cultural recreation.

Example: On his own initiative, using his video and his private car, Sergey Yankov, the manager of the discotheque and custodian of the youth house, periodically visits youth clubs in Dryanova, Belitsa and Manastir to show his new video pictures. This may not be a great deal but is something new and good, for even the small settlements must be given the opportunity to lead a cultural life.

In the final account, initiative and the practicality of each organization and society and every individual are and will be decisive.

Looking for Ideas!

Georgi Stankov, deputy chairman, Plovdiv Oblast People's Council Executive Committee: "In solving the problems of the sensible and worthwhile use of the leisure time of young people, under the new conditions priority is given to their own initiative, to self-initiatives. Until now, initiative followed the vertical line and the result was that in a number of cases it was not consistent with the wishes of the young people in the local areas. It did not fully meet their needs. Obviously, we need a certain period of time before we can feel the new wishes and see the needs which reality will trigger. Today we must find a new way of promoting the interest of the young. The role of the Komsomol authorities has increased. They must support some youth initiatives in discussing them with the management of the corresponding self-governing organization which already now has the right to make decisions. The efforts must be shifted down by one step: to the self-governing economic organizations. Furthermore, so far priority was given to accountability, such as number of steps, number of participants. But let us consider Pazardzhik and Batak as

examples. The discotheque in Pazardzhik can accommodate 200-300 people. However, this is an insignificant percentage of the number of young people in the city, whereas a single visit paid by the Pazardzhik theater to Batak will be attended by 600 people, as many as there are seats in the hall, and which is almost 10 percent of the population of the municipality. Therefore, statistics are no longer what matters or should matter. Each self-governing organization must organize as many and as different types of projects as are needed by its young people."

Atanas Raichkov, first secretary of the Luki Municipal Party Committee: "One of our major problems is cadre dynamics. We shall continue to face it. I think that the method followed in the past, which is that of recruiting specialists from the outside, is uncertain. We must concentrate our efforts on developing local cadres. They must be trained and encouraged to remain here. This is a basic problem which must be solved by each small municipality."

Plovdiv Oblast

Panteley Pachov, first secretary of the Plovdiv Oblast BCP Committee. Vasil Rosenov, Doychin Doychinov and Ivan Rozov, secretaries.

Stoyanka Krustenova, chairman of the Plovdiv Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Stoyan Koshulev, Khristo Mishev, Stoyan Popov and Georgi Stankov, deputy chairmen. Georgi Bozhkov, secretary.

Administrative center: Plovdiv. The oblast covers the territories of the former Plovdiv, Pazardzhik and Smolyan Okrugs. It has an area of 13,617.4 square kilometers (12.3 percent of the country's territory) with a population of 1,252,695 (13.9 percent of the country's population). It generates 14.5 percent of the national income and accounts for 11.9 percent of the country's fixed assets.

It is first on a national scale in a number of economic and spiritual areas. The oblast has the most densely developed network of settlements in the country. Plovdiv, with its powerful economic and scientific potential, has a strong integrating influence on the entire territory. The oblast produces 13 percent of the industrial and 11.9 percent of the agricultural output of the country.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader 22000008i Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 26 Sep 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Panteley Pachov, first secretary of the Plovdiv Oblast BCP Committee, by Grigor Lilov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO Plovdiv correspondent]

[Text] [Question] Was the creation of Plovdiv Oblast an objective law?

[Answer] The existing economic and communications ties, the established material and technical base, traditions and unified cultural development and, above all, the new possibilities which appeared in all areas were the base for the establishment of the oblast by combining the three okrugs. Today Plovdiv Oblast is a single natural-geographic highly developed and urbanized territory, distinguished by already crystallized processes of concentration of production assets and a population which can function as a single social organism. It is precisely on this basis that even before the "official" establishment of the oblast, we had signed contracts for all-round unification of the okrugs which are now part of the new territorial unit. However, whereas previously such contracts nonetheless covered a limited range of problems, the now formulated unified plan for the oblast will enable us to eliminate the main obstacles to the practical implementation of the party's concepts. Consequently, it is a question of a logical historical process which will be exceptionally accelerated as a result of the July BCP Central Committee Plenum.

It is indeed a question not of quantitative but qualitative changes. The country will expect of us adequate results. A close study indicates that the historically developed structure of the area needs radical reorganization in order to create the necessary conditions so that by the year 2000 public labor productivity and the national income generated on the territory may increase by a factor of 2.5-3. That is why we are currently undertaking the development (by enterprise, scientific unit and municipality) of the self-government concept. This will provide us with a specific answer on how to ensure the necessary pace of economic growth.

It will be based on the implementation of the national scientific and technical strategy. Its specific manifestation will encompass several priority areas: optics, laser technology, comprehensive automation of production processes, biotechnologies, scientific instrument making, microelectronics, electronics and electrical engineering. What matters is to develop them on a modern basis, making use of the new territorial opportunities under the conditions of self-government and technical retooling.

New opportunities become available also for the integrated territorial complexes. The existing production and scientific units of the entire oblast will be included in them as the foundation for developing regional centers in priority areas and achieving technological and market breakthroughs. Conditions have been created for the establishment of new complexes as well, involving a complete production cycle in ore mining and nonferrous metallurgy, connected with microelectronics used in the production of new materials, the tourist industry, consumer goods, etc.

[Question] Consequently, it is a question of an essentially new multiple-stratum structure of self-governing organizations.

[Answer] Numerous examples of this case can be cited. One of the most outstanding is our participation in the international division of labor. Socialist integration will acquire new qualities. The prototype is the joint Leningrad-Plovdiv plan which is being drafted and which reflects a new stage of cooperation with the USSR in engaging in joint production and scientific activities. Recently, during the Leningrad Days held in Plovdiv, we concluded another 10 contracts and signed four protocols for scientific, scientific-technical and production cooperation with the managements of 17 Leningrad institutes and enterprises. The foundation on which we are basing our cooperation is trust among partners and, above all, reciprocal scientific and economic interest.

In agriculture we shall aspire to achieve self-satisfaction with basic agricultural commodities. The oblast's specialization in this area of the national economy in serving the country and CEMA will be developed further.

[Question] Problems arise also pertaining to other areas of social life and finding a common language between the base and the superstructure.

[Answer] The main thing is that we shall solve problems not by simply combining them but by adopting a single approach and synthesizing various aspects within a single entity. This will provide us with the opportunity for extensive multiplication of technologies which will not be limited by "territorial and departmental feudalism." Practical experience has proved the fruitfulness of the new oblast model and offers the possibility of applying hundreds of new technologies. It is thus that we shall respond to the headlong process of developing a contemporary self-governing system of ties within the national economy: by uniting, creating joint programs and new economic forms, multiplying them and subsequently combining results.

Science will be the foundation of self-government. This is an expression of our evaluation of the laws governing the development of the contemporary stage of the scientific and technical revolution, characterized by a drastic increase in the role played by science in the socioeconomic development of territorial communities. Let us mention at this point our cooperation with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences with which proposals will be formulated for the development of new basic and applied areas in various fields of science and economics. This is what makes the need for creating a regional center of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

[Question] Finding ways and means of implementing ideas, consistent with our socialist model, is an exceptionally important process. Comrade Pachov, could you describe for us the other new approaches in style and management through which the oblast will be integrated as a territorial production-social complex?

[Answer] In all areas we shall rely on new technologies, ranging from management and economic work to party activities. They are substantiated in the BCP Central Committee documents and now we must interpret, use and apply them. This is the major task of the oblast party organization. The very size of such a complex, considering its scale and extent of relations, shapes its new properties. Such properties must be studied and thus used successfully. The end result depends to an exceptional extent on municipalities and enterprises!

[Question] The number of municipalities and enterprises is high and, according to the laws of cybernetics, one subject cannot flexibly manage dozens of objects, for in such a case irreparable harm could be caused by the still durable stereotype of relations between municipalities and superior authorities! How will this stereotype be surmounted?

[Answer] We shall apply the historical and dialectical approach: we shall take into consideration the time-tested economic and social status of the municipality and develop and enrich it. We shall comprehensively intensify the democratic principle. The key is self-government, the accurate combination of the three principles in all activities: party, state and society.

[Question] The role of the oblast party organization as well becomes greater under the changed circumstances. How will its new functions be manifested?

[Answer] We bear exceptional responsibility for ascribing a qualitatively new content to self-government and applying mechanisms for implementing the role of the BCP as the vanguard of the working people in the oblast, consistent with our time. The motive force will be the people and not the issuing of orders. However, these will be people who are restructuring themselves, who think innovatively and who have creatively mastered the new party concepts. We need confidence in our forces and a critical view, personal examples and a high feeling of responsibility. We shall be intolerant of improperly done work. We shall reject what is ossified and dogmatic, learning from the examples set by the BCP Central Committee. Furthermore, the implementation of the plan is our urgent task.

We are faced with mastering a familiar territory, a territory in which we were born and in which we live but which is also an unknown territory in terms of the new major tasks of building socialism. Belief and action on the part of everyone will be the paths which will lead us ahead.

05003

Razgrad Oblast

Description, Opinions of Residents
22000008j Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 10

[Materials prepared by Galina Antonova, Evgeni Petrov, and Van'o Stoilov]

[Text] It would be logical under the conditions of self-government also to discuss relations among economic and territorial units, such as plants, small enterprises, agroindustrial complexes and municipalities. Each one of these has its own specific and immediate tasks, problems and prospects. Each one of them has the opportunity of making independent decisions and has been assigned drastically increased rights as well as obligations. At the same time, they share common interests, for their overall owner are the people. To a great extent the way they will produce and how much they will produce will greatly determine precisely the strength and viability of the municipality. The quality and efficiency of the people's work will depend on the way they will spend their leisure time and the goods and services which will be provided to them.

Interview With Ivan Bakalov, Chairman of the Tutrakan Municipal People's Council Executive Committee

[Question] What are the economic prospects of Tutrakan Municipality under the new conditions?

[Answer] In order to ensure the self-support of the municipality, we are studying the possible contribution of each labor collective to the economic future of Tutrakan. For example, we have studied the degree of readiness for developing the ship repair process at the Ivan Dimitrov Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Yards in Ruse. We have an agreement in principle with the people of Ruse. All that is left is for the Water Transportation Economic Trust to respond to our wish to make Tutrakan the shipbuilding center on the Danube River.

[Question] What new developments are taking place at Terma?

[Answer] Terma decided to reach an agreement with the Gas Cylinders Plant in Giavenitsa for joint work in ensuring better work by our production facilities. We shall also double the production of industrial heaters for shops and plants, which are particularly efficient in construction work in winter.

[Question] What are the new developments at Lodko-stroitel?

[Answer] We have cooperated our work with Technohiber, the Italian company, and in a couple of months we shall begin to import new technological equipment which will enable us to "penetrate" the Italian, Cuban and Soviet markets with boats, yachts, launches, paddleboats and scooters made of fiberglass.

[Question] What would a visitor of Tutrakan remember after his visit?

[Answer] A tourist who visits us next year would see the floating mill on the Danube, which will be an attractive institution in which corn flour will be milled making use of the river current. The plant is ready and Lodkostroitel will undertake to manufacture the project.

Popular Views

Development of the Loznitsa Municipality; an ambitious program which is adopted by everyone; a single base seeking managers.

Against the background of the comprehensive program for the socioeconomic development of the municipality, the updating of its center may seem an insignificant project, regardless of the fact that at present, one truck after another is unloading construction materials, steam-rollers are packing the pavement, and concrete is being poured. The three stars on top of the new hotel were lit recently. Furthermore:

By 1990 the volume of overall output will be doubled compared with 1986. Capital returns must be increased by a factor of 3-3.5. The figures planned for 1995 are even more impressive.

The logic is simple: the more profitable the economic units on municipal territory become, the greater will be their possibility of helping its development and urbanization. Stan'o Marinov, deputy chairman of the Rodina TPK, in charge of economic problems:

"Partners or competitors with the municipality? Partners, naturally! The 3 percent of our profits which we contribute to the municipal budget is used to improve services, transportation and health care. At the same time, much more substantial withholdings are made for the superior organization ('local industry and consumer services'). This is illogical. It would be better for the funds to be kept here."

Irena Gocheva, Komsomol secretary, Rodina TPK: "Profits come from the work of the people. Our two MTK deserve great credit for the fact that the plan for the first 9 months was completed as early as 20 August. However, they justifiably ask me: 'Why is it that so far no single housing unit has been given to young families? Why is it that we have no sports facilities whatsoever?'"

Dragomir Drumev, 35, general director of the Biomash TK: "I would formulate the question as follows: Look at the soccer field of the combine: it is covered with weeds. The locker rooms have been neglected. The volleyball area has been neglected as well. If they are maintained we are prepared to offer them for use by all young people in the municipality. Today we are prepared to grant funds also for building a youth video club which will also be for all young people."

Radi Radev, chief of shift at the Mikhail Petrov Youth Shop: "We are poor managers, this is true. I am not seeking excuses but in order to have enough time to play soccer or to organize something at the youth house a proper plan must be drawn up. There are also difficulties, involving mostly the output from the casting shop. The transportation system is poor. Many young people have to commute and instead of spending 1 hour after work together (there is no shortage of ideas), we spend this hour waiting at stops."

Denka Konova, 33, electronic worker at Biomash: "What are my recommendations concerning the municipality? We need a consumer service house. Occasionally the shops are short of goods. Clothing and shoes must come in greater variety so that we do not have to travel to other municipalities to shop."

Bozhidar Krushovenski, 33, Konova's colleague: "For the time being, I have no recommendations to make. I have been here 1 month, transferred from the Miziya Municipality. Loznitsa Municipality has much greater amenities and both services and supplies are better. I would like to settle here."

Deputy Chairman, Ruse Municipal People's Council Executive Committee, Answers Questions

Questions by Ralitsa Aleksandrova, 27, specialist at the Ruse Heavy Machine Building SO: I would ask the deputy chairman in charge of construction how will the construction of the municipality develop in the future? I would also ask him how will the reconstruction, restoration and maintenance of architectural monuments in our city be continued?

Krasimir Asenov, 32, deputy chairman of the Ruse Municipal People's Council Executive Committee: "In order to achieve maximal results of any construction today, under the new conditions, the municipality will have to cooperate with other municipalities, enterprises and even individual collectives. What makes this twice as necessary is that the plan calls for increasing the amount of currently planned construction. For example, construction by the enterprises themselves will contribute to the people of Ruse another 1,913 apartments. Enterprises and labor collectives will participate in the implementation of the housing program making use of the opportunities provided by virtue of Council of Ministers Resolution No 32 in building 1,182 apartments. The promising idea has been formulated of setting up youth cooperatives. We wanted to build a youth housing complex but, until recently, there was no lot on which to build it. Now the area has been provided at the Charodeyka District and the possibility of implementing this good idea exists. However, we shall also need the help of the Komsomol municipal committee. We also have major projects of great social importance, which we must complete before the end of the 5-year plan, such as the

new dental polyclinic, the enclosed swimming pool, a school in one of the new districts and, naturally, completing the first stage of the trolleybus system including three main lines."

"The people of Ruse have always been very sensitive to any case of delay or carelessness in maintaining the cultural and historical heritage of the city. In the next few years we must complete the reconstruction of the Drama Theater, and the history and natural science museums. Plants in Ruse and individual collectives have developed an exceptionally useful practice of becoming "sponsors" of events in cultural life and archaeological studies. This practice must be developed and enriched. I believe that such gifts could assist in the development of many municipal initiatives related to the preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality, for all of us are prejudiced in favor of the future of our city and its comprehensive development."

Development of Obitel Municipality

The latest major construction project is under way in the center of Obitel Village. A great deal of construction is taking place in this municipality, where 60 percent of the population is under 35. In this case, we are referring to the building of a hostel of the APK for 50 people. It will have a large dining room and a central kitchen. This complex will benefit the entire village.

Such has always been the case: the APK is making a great contribution to the development of the entire municipality. Chairman Aleksandur Dimitrov quoted from the accounts: We are contributing the largest amount of funds to the municipal budget: more than 200,000 leva annually. However, this does not end our contribution to the development of the municipality. The complex steadily tries to increase the number of jobs and to improve the working conditions for young people, which means preventing migration from this area.

One could hardly imagine the development of the Obitel Municipality without the youth APK. This year alone 12,000 leva were allocated for subsidizing food in kindergartens; 5,000 leva were allocated for the development of soccer and wrestling. APK funds were used to asphalt the road to the base for short recreation, located near Vrani Kon Village.

It may appear on the surface that everything that has been accomplished has been for the benefit of the farmers alone. However, the positive effect has extended to everyone. The APK supplied its projects in Veslets Village with running water and, adding a single additional line, running water was procured for the school. The APK purchased four minibuses for the transportation of workers to the fields and livestock farms and frequent passengers include young people from villages, who are traveling on tourist trips or else for the exchange of practical experience. Again it is the APK which is providing incentives-in-kind (grain and fodder above all)

to the construction workers on the territory of Obitel Municipality. Today these construction workers are building a new kindergarten for 60 children in the central village; tomorrow they may go on to a new project but they can rest assured that the complex has never failed to keep its promises for bonuses-in-kind.

You should not think that the possibilities of the youth APK are unlimited. Here as well the semi-mountainous topography creates problems. However, this is not the most important thing when it becomes a question of making further contributions to the development of the municipality. Everything starts with the conviction that the responsibility of the area where the people here live and work cannot be separated into "this is yours" and "this is ours," and that concern for our home is general.

Conditions, criteria and requirements may differ. The level which has been developed is considered insufficient to some. Under the conditions of self-government, in some areas the main task will be to stop the drain of manpower; in others, it will be acquiring more specialists or there are those which are as yet to change the correlation between industry and agriculture. All of this can be achieved only with the best possible interaction between enterprises and the municipality for the sake of and with the possibilities of their owners, the people.

Razgrad Oblast

Petur Petrov, Razgrad Oblast BCP Committee first secretary. Boris Anastasov, Yuliya Pirinska and Petur Obretenov, secretaries.

Evtim Krustev, chairman, Razgrad Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Simeon Zakhariev, Khristo Markov, Aleksandur Milenkov and Doncho Karakachanov, deputy chairmen. Ulyana Dimolarova, secretary.

Administrative center: Razgrad. The oblast covers the territory of the former Ruse, Razgrad, Silistra and Turgovishte Okrugs. Area: 10,812.6 square kilometers (9.7 percent of the country's territory); population: 849,384 (9.5 percent of the country's population). The oblast generates 8.3 percent of the national income and accounts for 7.1 percent of the country's capital assets.

It has a clearly expressed industrial-agrarian structure. The oblast accounts for 8.7 percent of industry and 14.7 percent of the agricultural output of the country. Industrial output is already exceeding agricultural output by a factor of 3. The oblast accounts for 11.1 percent of the machine building and 10.2 percent of the electrical engineering and electronic output of the country.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader
22000008j Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO
in Bulgarian 19 Sep 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Petur Petrov, first secretary of the Razgrad Oblast BCP Committee, by Van'o Stoilov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO Turgoviche correspondent]

[Text] [Question] New oblasts were set up in accordance with the resolutions of the July BCP Central Committee Plenum. Their party and state managements have been at work since the end of August. What is now the main task of the Razgrad Oblast leadership?

[Answer] It could be formulated in a single sentence: the strengthening and establishment of the oblast. Given the current scale of the oblasts, it would be very difficult to expect that their managements would be able to deal specifically with all problems. Conversely, petty supervision is not necessary. We also oppose direct interference in the work of self-governing economic organizations and municipalities. Our task is to direct development strategy, implement party policy in the oblast and assert self-government as a form of management. Not everyone understands this and we are currently asked why are there no ceilings, why have you not organized the central sale of commodities, etc. This is a period belonging to the past and it was a practice which helped us in the past, when our country was economically poor and weak.

[Question] You said that the party authorities and committees must direct strategy in the development of the oblast. Can you be more specific?

[Answer] The four previous okrugs which are now Razgrad Oblast: Razgrad, Ruse, Siliistra and Turgovishte, have left us areas with interesting socioeconomic development and great successes but also a number of unsolved problems. In terms of territory and population we are among the smaller oblasts. The data show, however, that our agriculture is the second most important contributor to the national economy. Taking this into consideration, we must look over all positive and negative aspects in the development of this sector and properly direct both structure and intensification in order to obtain better results. The first question we have already asked ourselves is, as we wait for the help of scientific institutions, how to develop irrigated agriculture further. It is unforgivable for a source of water, such as the Danube River, not to be used efficiently. Secondly, we categorically have raised the question of a certain restructuring of crops, shifting them to areas offering the best soil and weather conditions. All of this will be subordinated to the need for self-satisfaction with food products, fruits and vegetables. It is no secret that currently there is not always a sufficient amount of meat and meat and dairy goods and that the market frequently "dries out." We must eliminate this by developing modern animal husbandry.

It is true that we are behind in the development of industry and in this area we must eliminate the disparity in the development of the old okrugs. Whereas Ruse is overloaded, we can say in the case of Razgrad that it has good possibilities; however, matters are not the same in Turgoviche and Siliistra Okrugs. We are convinced that the oblast needs restructuring with a view to ensuring the even development of all areas. At this point, however, I must say that here as well we have good opportunities. This year we shall complete the production capacities of the Heavy Machine Building Combine in Ruse; by the end of the 5-year period we must complete the major expansion of the Combine for Antibiotics and the Corn Processing Plant in Razgrad and the gradual completion of the Industrial Timber Combine in Siliistra, as stipulated in its initial blueprint. The timely completion of the scientific-production enterprise for steel pipes and shaped items in Popovo, completing the reconstruction of the Energiya Electric Batteries Plant in Turgoviche, and ensuring a suitable line of production items at the Plant for Office Equipment in Siliistra are very important. In short, we have all the necessary conditions for making a suitable contribution by the oblast economy to that of the country between now and the end of the 5-year period.

I could discuss extensively our development in the social area but let me briefly say that we have already agreed to make an overall assessment of the extent to which the present material facilities and cadres in health care, education and culture are consistent with requirements and take immediate practical steps. Nonetheless, the most difficult problem remains that of housing. In this area we must do a great deal of work, for the reason is not the lack of funds but delays by construction workers in completing a number of projects. The task is to upgrade the capacity of construction organizations in all areas and eliminate the poor organization of the work.

[Question] Henceforth the efforts of the former okrugs will be combined with the help of the unified policy of the oblast. How will the individual municipalities help each other and what will be relations among them?

[Answer] Let us not forget that we have a certain amount of practical experience in this respect: subsequent to the plenum of the Ruse Okrug Party Committee, in December of last year, Ruse and Razgrad Okrugs were the first in the country to develop the closest possible cooperation between them. This opening of the okrugs long before the idea of developing the present oblasts had matured, yielded good results. Here is a single example: Ruse alone has more industry than it has manpower whereas the Khlebarovo, Yupre and Kubrat settlements, in Razgrad Okrug, had the problem of available manpower. We began to shift some production facilities from Ruse to these areas and help them with specialists. Let me strongly emphasize, however, that this was done under mutually profitable conditions. We should not think that this was a reason for getting rid of undesirable production facilities at the expense of other people. On

the other hand, the people of Ruse benefited from the experience of the people of Razgrad in the area of agriculture. It is thus that the contract for cooperation between the two okrugs actually laid the foundations for the oblast. We must draw on this experience now, as it naturally becomes part of the oblast practical experience.

We shall continue to rely a great deal in the future as well on relations among municipalities in the area of cultural life. In this respect, Ruse will provide the entire oblast population with the opportunity for direct access to the arts developed by professional cultural institutions on its territory and the theaters in Razgrad, Silistra and Turgoviche will be desired guests on all stages in the area. Specialists in the big cities will help amateur collectives in the municipalities.

I could go on with this enumeration but let me say at this point that in our oblast we have a kind of test of the possibilities of reciprocal aid and cooperation among municipalities: the struggle for eliminating the consequences of the earthquake in the Popovo area. Currently construction organizations from all the previous okrugs of this oblast are at work in that area and we have agreed that they will strictly implement their obligations in accordance with governmental documents. Furthermore, we have suggested to the central authorities, and they have accepted it, that their aid should be sought only in the case of work done by people coming from the other oblast. The work done by our own construction workers should set the example.

[Question] The oblast has nearly 80,000 party members. Unquestionably, they will remain in the leading ranks in solving the forthcoming major and difficult problems.

[Answer] This is natural. We shall rely on the party members to set a personal example and engage in dedicated work. The initiated party accountability and election campaign provides the first opportunity for a frank discussion between the new oblast leadership and the party members. Every one of us will attend more meetings and conferences. We would like to tell the people two things: first, we need the full mobilization of the primary labor collectives in order to ensure the implementation of the annual plan. If the annual tasks are not met we cannot prove in any way the advantages of the new developments we are promoting. On the other hand, the party members must be the first to reinterpret both restructuring and their own position within it. They must help everyone to support restructuring so that as of next year we can benefit from the great advantages of the structural changes. Once again the party members have been assigned an important mission of which, I am convinced, they will be worthy.

05003

Sofia Oblast

Description, Comments by Local Officials

22000008k Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 11

[Materials prepared by Radmila Popova, Plamen Starev, and Valeri Kostadinov]

[Text] Sofia City is like a supermarket for the population of many towns and villages scattered in a wide circumference around it. Everyday thousands of people come to the capital exclusively to shop. This means loss of working and valuable leisure time. What we emphasize here is the way in which the new territorial community—Sofia Oblast—will be able to satisfy the needs of the population for more and better quality goods. Such needs will be steadily increasing. However, large oblasts also have great possibilities.

Market Conditions

Traditional Shortages

The need for meat, particularly poultry and meat products, bottled cooking oil, nonalcoholic beverages, fruits and vegetables (no grapes are available during the grape harvesting season), working clothes, rubber goods, and clothing and knitted goods for children, remains unsatisfied.

Views

Dimitur Despoto, secretary in charge of agriculture and trade, Stanke Dimitrov Municipal BCP Committee: "So far, the problems of the unified market system have not been handled as they should, on the okrug level. A certain interaction did exist between municipalities and okrugs but it was partial. There was no knowledge of the areas in which such unity played the most important role, whether in terms of self-satisfaction or the production of consumer goods, cooperated production, or something else. The real needs of the population were not known, for the process of regulating commodity stocks was rather relative. For example, the okrug people's council could increase such stock for some settlements or municipality and reduce it for another. On the one hand, the consolidation offers us the possibility of having a greater choice of goods to be contracted for; on the other hand, locally, in the municipality, we will know best what are the interests of the people and what stocks to have. In my view, the future belongs to cooperated production, above all in terms of consumer goods."

Petranka Novoselska, chief, Trade, Consumer Services and Economic Tourism Department, Stanke Dimitrov Municipal People's Council: "Our tasks now become much more serious and responsible. The only thing which frightens me is that we lack specialists in the

various trade areas. Everything is concentrated in Kyustendil.... We are waiting for contracting requests but will they be the most accurate possible?"

We had the opportunity to discuss matters with young people in Stanke Dimitrov, Rila, Kocherinovo, Blagoevgrad, Simitli and Sandanski and in Marikostinovo and Kulata Villages. They consider problems of the unified market policy in the oblast exclusively in the light of meeting the demand for more and more fashionable goods for young people. For solving economic problems is not their problem but that of specialists. The visible aspects of this problem is the existence of goods in stores. For the time being, a large number of goods are either in short supply or their variety is small.

In the first 8 months of 1987, Pernik Okrug fulfilled its retail trade plan 103.64 percent, which is a 5.1 percent increase compared with the same period in 1986. Nonetheless, the needs of the Pernik population as well as that of the other municipalities were not met for a number of items. In the case of some of them, such as nonalcoholic beverages, chocolate and confectionary goods, coffee, olives, and others, estimates and contracted quantities are not only insufficient but even that which was planned was not procured. In the case of other items, such as pork, meat delicatessen and sausages, vegetable oils and poultry meat, procurements from the other okrugs are not being met. For the period under consideration, the plan called for 1,706 tons of cooking oil whereas the okrug market received only 1,580; other goods received in quantities lesser than those planned include sugar, by 225 tons; dry beans, 71 tons; rice, 42 tons; and confectionary and chocolate goods, 22 tons. Only 232 tons of packaged meat and semi-finished goods out of 456 tons as planned were procured; the highest nonfulfillment of contractual obligations was that of the meat combines in Vidin, Mikhaylovgrad and Levski. There was also a scarcity of vegetables, particularly tomatoes, bell peppers and onions, and grapes.

There was also a lag in the procurements of construction materials, such as bricks, tiles, soft wood lumber, and others.

Needs for some industrial goods were not met: for electric-powered boilers, refrigerators, color television sets, vacuum cleaners, children's bicycles, shoes for children and secondary school students, and underwear. This was due mainly to the nonfulfillment of contractual obligations by trade organizations and procurement enterprises.

Market Policy, Prospects

Talk with Boyan Aleksov, secretary of the oblast people's council, and with Petur Sokolov, from the Trade, Consumer Services and Economic Tourism Administration.

[Question] We have a traditional problem involving commodities produced by the local industry, agrocomplexes and cooperative systems; they have great opportunities but are always behind. How can this problem be solved within the framework of the new territorial community—the municipality?

[Answer] We are thinking of organizing internal oblast pre-contracting for consumer goods. This would protect us from the "practice" of shipping out of the oblast goods which we must later try to procure from elsewhere. For example, ranges heated with hard fuel are manufactured in Slivnitsa. They are in great demand in all parts of the country. Yet no such ranges are available in Slivnitsa or the settlements around it. We have therefore been forced to seek ranges in Lovech. We would like to organize pre-contracting in each of the larger municipalities which would be visited by trade organizations from the oblast and would submit their requests. The trade balance of the country would not be disturbed but this would make consumer shopping in the oblast better and easier. Actually, this will shorten the distance between the producer and the consumer.

Because of geographic location, the various parts of the country have specialized in the production of a variety of agricultural commodities. Thus, for example, in the Blagoevgrad area, early fruits and vegetables predominate; around Sofia this applies to potatoes, cabbage and carrots; in the Kyustendil area this applies to fruits, such as cherries, apples and pears.... Based on the self-satisfaction system, a unified balance could be developed among the municipalities. On an economic basis, on the basis of reciprocal interest, they could reach agreements. The Petrich and Samokov Municipalities should start talks on procuring a certain amount of potatoes, fruits and vegetables over and above the state assignments, and thus meet requirements quickly and easily.

We are also considering building small- and medium-sized capacities for the production of nonalcoholic beverages and beer. We are asking the agrocomplexes to open their own stores not only at the Georgi Kirkov market place in Sofia but in all municipalities and in all settlements in the oblast. For example, the Belasitsa APK could open its own store in Samokov and the people of Samokov could sell their potatoes in Petrich....

[Question] Would all of this meet the needs of the population for more and better quality goods in all municipalities and settlements in the oblast?

[Answer] Consumer demand is not easily satisfied in the large cities and small settlements. In all likelihood it will become necessary to develop associations, such as the Sofia Commodity Area, which will have supradepartmental functions. This will make it independent of the interests of different organizations and trusts. It would

depend exclusively on market demand. Not only consumer goods but all goods, including fashionable items, should be able to reach all villages. This is entirely natural.

[Question] This looks like a good idea. How can it be carried out?

[Answer] By introducing the use of technological and contemporary forms of services, such as itinerant trade, open displays, and self-help stores.... We are still unable specifically to determine how this will be developed. We are as yet to set up a department to work in this area, make its computations and analyze its possibilities. We are certain, however, that the objective will be to enable the people in any village to buy anything they could buy in the center of Samokov or the center of Blagoevgrad.

Sofia Oblast

Lazar Prichkapov, first secretary of the Sofia Oblast BCP Committee. Nikola Tonchev, Nikola Nikolov and Vasil Zanchev, secretaries.

Atanas Konstantinov, chairman of the Sofia Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Mincho Pankov, Petur Borchev, Dimitur Zaev and Petur Galchin, deputy chairmen. Boyan Aleksov, secretary.

Administrative center: Sofia City. Covers the former Sofia, Pernik, Kyustendil and Blagoevgrad Okrugs. It is the largest territorial-administrative unit: 19,087.5 square kilometers (17.2 percent of the country's territory) with a population of 1,018,748 (11.4 percent of the country's population). It generates 9.7 percent of the national income and accounts for 11.5 percent of the country's fixed assets.

Sofia Oblast has an industrial-agrarian structure. It accounts for 10.6 percent of the country's industry and 9.6 percent of its agricultural output. Dominating in its territorial structure is the Pernik industrial center. Significant functions are performed by the industrial centers of Blagoevgrad, Botevgrad, Kyustendil and Stanke Dimitrov.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader 22000008k Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Oct 87 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Lazar Prichkapov, first secretary, Sofia Oblast BCP Committee, by Tsocho Shatrov]

[Text] [Question] What are the initial conclusions and which is the main problem being currently solved by the oblast's leadership?

[Answer] For over a month we have been traveling from one municipality to another, meeting with various collectives and individuals and studying documents, plans and programs. The conclusion is that this is a vital area.

Everyone can see and realize the great opportunities and prospects of municipalities and of the oblast as a whole. The existing natural resources, progressive specialization of output, existing infrastructure and expanded network of schools and cultural institutions, as well as the high cadre potential are unquestionably good prerequisites for intensive growth.

A great deal remains to be done to develop a concept so that this potential—cadres, manpower, economic, social and spiritual—can be used with maximal efficiency and in accordance with the party's strategic course. The main problem at this stage is how, in implementing the resolutions of the 13th Party Congress and the July BCP Central Committee Plenum, to develop the oblast on the basis of restructuring, functioning of municipalities and activities of the oblast party organization in such a way as to achieve a qualitatively new growth in the economy and the other areas of social life.

Like the other oblasts, Sofia Oblast is not a mechanical assembly of territories, economic data, populations, way of life and culture. Approaching it in this way would inevitably be mistaken. For centuries it is here, on the basis of the deep and strong Bulgarian roots, that some of the best examples of our material and spiritual culture were created and developed. This is particularly typical of the period which followed the April 1956 BCP Central Committee Plenum. Now, combined, they are the heart of the future comprehensive and dynamic development of the oblast.

Each municipality, settlement and collective has its specific problems and tasks. At this stage they must be considered and interpreted in a new fashion, from the viewpoint of the new requirements and criteria and, on this basis, an answer must be provided to their solution. An equally important task now is the harnessing and efficient organization of collectives for the implementation of the plans and the successful conclusion of the 1987 plan and preparations for the 1988 one.

This demands action. Such action must be highly coordinated, specific and precise, consistent with the possibilities of the collectives and the people and formulated for the sake of their well-being.

The most important thing is to create a strong and efficient oblast party organization, a true vanguard of the working people in the oblast, which would combine the revolutionary with the contemporary virtues of the four component okrug organizations, enriched with the new visions and approaches of the party's Central Committee and, personally, Comrade Todor Zhivkov, in developing a contemporary model of socialism in our country.

[Question] Compared to the other oblasts, Sofia Oblast has the largest number of municipalities with great differences in their socioeconomic development. How will the integration among them be accomplished and how will they help each other under self-government conditions?

[Answer] With its 45 municipalities, Sofia Oblast is territorially the largest. This raises a number of other problems. You quite appropriately used the expression "great differences," obviously bearing in mind, in addition to other and natural and weather resources, the historical legacy and traditions. The shaping of the oblast offers prerequisites for the joint efforts of municipalities or groups of settlements for such prerequisites to be developed more dynamically than in the past, by opening the municipalities to each other, and the combination of their economic, social and cultural ties.

As to possibilities of integration among them under self-government conditions, I would say that they are substantial. Some are traditional and others are as yet to be established. Let us take as an example electrical engineering and, more specifically, the production of electronic components. The municipalities have both the facilities, experience and cadres to accomplish this. Under the new circumstances a more extensive use could be made of achievements in Botevgrad in raising the standards of output in the plants in Samokov, Kyustendil and Blagoevgrad. Substantial opportunities for integration exist in other areas as well.

This also applies to the question of self-satisfaction with agricultural goods. Sofia Oblast has all the necessary conditions to meet its own needs by having the municipalities increase the production of agricultural commodities, for which the best possible conditions exist, and, at the same time, to optimize their reciprocal ties and integration. Therefore, there would be no need for Petrich to wait for grapes and vegetables to be shipped from the outside, Kyustendil to wait for apples and cherries, Radomir for onions, Pernik for bell peppers and Samokov for potatoes. It is the precise opposite that will happen. The establishment of the oblast eliminates the obstacles which have existed so far obstructing the movement of manpower, equipment and technology and the application of a more efficient organization of labor.

In a certain sense, integration among municipalities existed in the past as well. However, there were also frequent cases of self-isolation. Some collectives and municipalities have developed layers of stereotypes, misunderstood views on what is "ours" and what is "alien," and cases of superficial and emotional approaches and waiting.

We realistically acknowledge that now, under the new conditions, concepts related to the development of the municipalities are undergoing major changes. In Sofia Oblast as well, their future development is based on restructuring and integration, reciprocal openness and mutual aid, self-government and initiative. In short, to us the guarantee of the oblast's future lies in the development of the municipalities, together with them and through them.

[Question] How do you conceive of cooperation between the oblast and the capital city and what do you expect of it?

[Answer] Concern for the capital is nationwide. We are familiar with Sofia's problems. At the same time, we are also familiar with the unsolved problems of Sofia Oblast. And since we share the same territory, an atmosphere of mutual respect, trust, equality, consideration, concern and partnership must exist between us.

Like the other oblasts, Sofia Oblast must participate in the development of the capital city, and more so than the others. The oblast will remain economically, socially and spiritually tied to the capital. Using this as a basis for cooperation, we can work jointly in solving a number of problems.

Let us consider the market. Sofia Oblast has major commitments in terms of supplying the capital. However, good supplies presume large-scale and reliable output: despite the scarcity of land, it has greater opportunities in the development of vegetable growing and perennial crops and the more extensive use of the products of science in agriculture, for which it could be greatly helped by Sofia City. There are much greater prospects for cooperation in science and scientific and technical cooperation in culture and education. Some of the old okrugs had developed interesting initiatives and results of joint activities with the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the V.I. Lenin VMEI, Sofia University, the Agricultural Academy and other scientific institutions. Such partnerships as well must be intensified on a mutually profitable basis.

Therefore, we see cooperation between Sofia and Sofia Oblast as a dynamic, multi-directional and varied process, of real use to the capital and its oblast.

[Question] A delicate question: cadres. How are they accepting the changes?

[Answer] This is not a delicate question. However, it could turn into one and develop tension by approaching its solution on an unprincipled basis or politically inaccurately. We know the nature of the political and human principles followed and applied by our party concerning cadres in the years after the April 1956 Central Committee Plenum. We proceed on that same basis now, in solving the problem as well as could be, sensibly and humanely, on a principled and comradely manner. Let us say bluntly and not delicately that this is not easy, and that it is a question of reorienting a large number of cadres. We know that in this case we have no material problems. What we have, rather, are problems of psychology and prestige.

As elsewhere in the country, in Sofia Oblast the reorientation of cadres is being approached in a responsible fashion, taking into consideration the practical and

moral qualities they have displayed and the professional and human aspects of the problem, as well as concern for the development of socialist individuals.

Today as well, such qualities will be tested in the attitude and views of the cadres concerning restructuring. At this point we have no right to engage in sentimentality but must display party principle-mindedness, for we do not forget the fact that these cadres bore on their shoulders long years of obligations which they successfully fulfilled. Our efforts are directed toward the type of solution of the problem with cadres which would promote and assert the party's leading role and that of its primary party organizations, such as maximally to contribute to the implementation of tasks and to strengthen and develop municipalities and collectives and ensure restructuring on all levels.

05003

Khaskovo Oblast

Description, Comments by Local Officials
220000081 Sofia NARODNA MLADEZH in Bulgarian
27 Sep 87 p 12

[Materials prepared by Daniela Feralieva and Plamen Darakchiev]

[Text] The municipality is the place where we work, spend our leisure time or, in short, live. How should it be now, with its increased rights and responsibilities, under conditions of self-government? What could the young people in it do by themselves in order to realize their potential most fully? Are we sufficiently strong now and what are we proposing in order to retain the young highly skilled cadres in our own municipality? Dozens of questions could be asked and dozens of answers given and suggestions made. We started on our trip with the conviction that our notebooks will be filled with dozens of written pages which will reflect the thoughts, arguments and dreams of young people.... We selected as our targets municipalities in Khaskovo Oblast showing great differences in terms of structure, development and population. We decided to visit the young people in Dimitrovgrad, which is one of the cities-symbols of our socialist industrialization, and to see Podkova, Kirkovo and Benkovski, three neighboring border municipalities, linked by a number of demographic, social and economic features. In the simplest terms, we decided to look and seek opportunities for realizing the potential of the young in areas where industry developed a long time ago, assumed specific features and structures, but also created problems including some of a social nature, as well as areas in which it is only now beginning, gathering strength and experience, which is sometimes the result of bitter lessons....

Dimitrovgrad. A Dialogue by Correspondence

This city includes the Technological Chemical Combine, which is a pioneer in our domestic industry, the Vulkan State Cement Plant, the Marbas Economic Machine-Power Combine and others. Statistically, industry generates 62 percent of the municipal public product. It would have been logical to expect here extensive opportunities. However, it is an open secret that young highly skilled specialists continue to leave the municipality.

From a recent economic program on Bulgarian television, municipality mayor Sasho Dimitrov, the mayor of the municipality, will be remembered for his viewpoint on problems resolved by the people of Dimitrovgrad Municipality. It was related to the fact that Dimitrovgrad has enterprises of national importance, currently working at a loss. Naturally, this entails losses to the municipality and to its young cadres. The mayor made an interesting suggestion: in the future, the mandated payments which such enterprises must make to the municipality should be based on the amount by which losses during the current year have been reduced. Here is the view of one of the youngest economic managers, Engineer Ivan Evlogiev, director of the Rakovski Consumer Services Combine:

"The suggestion made by Sasho Dimitrov is a problem to be solved on a national scale. However, it includes a number of things which we could accomplish ourselves. I personally would suggest to the municipality to set up an economic association as per Article 36 of the Regulation on Economic Activities, which would include self-governing organizations in Dimitrovgrad, the Bulgarian National Bank and other institutions invited to participate. It should be a juridical person with its own balance sheet, so that in a couple of years it could build several small highly efficient enterprises based on the priority complexes for the 5-year period, by partially restructuring the existing industrial facilities. This will provide the young specialists with accurate prospects for their future development and the municipality will acquire some profitable (including foreign exchange-earning) enterprises."

Something else which the people of Dimitrovgrad could accomplish by themselves: according to Kol'o Ivanov, first deputy chairman of the municipal people's council executive committee, it is the following:

"Taking as an example our contract with Ivaylovgrad Municipality, according to which we exchange construction materials for unskilled workers, contracts could be concluded with other municipalities as well. For the benefit of young skilled cadres, we would like to build yet another machine building enterprise, possibly in the field of electronics."

This marked the beginning of an interesting conversation with the deputy chairman on the type of approach to be adopted by the municipality, and the technology to be

applied for "attracting" this type of enterprise and ensuring it with manpower. We continued the discussion in the office of his younger colleague Arsen Milanov, until recently first secretary of the municipal Komsomol committee and now deputy chairman of the municipal people's council executive committee in Podkova.

'...Lack of Feedback'

The people in Podkova Municipality started only recently to draw up a chart of their industry. The picture is quite varied: there are shops, small shops, subshops, the objective being to provide employment to people who are seasonally employed in agriculture, in tobacco growing. These shops employ some 900 people, 80 percent of whom are members of the Komsomol. What is disturbing is that the municipality cannot provide jobs for some 2,000 people, many of whom are graduates of secondary specialized schools and are suitably skilled. We were told that some of them have left to seek their luck where we started from—Dimitrovgrad Municipality.

"Actually, we have two problems," Arsen Milanov specified. "The first is for two or three shops on municipal territory to be expanded into enterprises, for which we are preparing conditions and have established contacts with the leaderships of the mother enterprises. The other problem is to develop a structure-determining machine building enterprise on municipal territory. We have a clear idea concerning the skills, educational standards and possibilities of the young, for which we were greatly helped by the municipal Komsomol committee. The question, however, is what to do most specifically in order to set up such an enterprise: Should we pick up our briefcases and start making the rounds of officials, associations and combines or wait for problems to be solved within the oblast? In my view, there is also a third choice for applying the potential of our young: together with the municipality and the economic organization to solve problems jointly in such a way that both could benefit economically. It is at this point that we must 'open' ourselves as a system of settlements."

Invitation to Kirkovo To Join the SMK in Kurdzhali

The Pnevmatika Machine Building Plant is under construction here, to be completed by the end of the year, so that there will be both jobs and self-satisfaction by the young who will handle machines with numerical programming. Nonetheless, a modern enterprise on municipal territory is not just a "gift." It also demands a number of improvements in the municipal infrastructure. Let us specify that this is a circumstance directly related to the work of the construction workers. Following is the opinion on this matter expressed by Dicho Mikhaylov, deputy chairman of the municipal people's council executive committee and member of the administrative council of the Urbanization and Communal Construction Association in Kurdzhali:

"At the very first meeting of the administrative council, I shall suggest that we invite as a member of the association the Construction and Installation Combine in Kurdzhali, without the participation of which we cannot guarantee the implementation of our construction programs."

Benkovski. The Komsomol in Action

We were told in Podkova that topical in Benkovski is the problem of "surplus" manpower among young people. However, mention was also made of the good example set by the municipal Komsomol committee. That is why we immediately sought its first secretary, Dimitur Manchev.

"We recently established contacts with the Khristo Botev Rayon Komsomol Committee in Sofia. They helped us to sign a contract with the enterprise for repair and restoration projects which services the university students settlement. The purpose was not only to provide jobs for our Komsomol members but also to obtain specific help in some of our initiatives. Currently the student settlement has hired on a temporary basis three of our Komsomol construction brigades and we are receiving tangible aid from the enterprise in minor mechanization facilities, materials and others, which we shall use in building youth projects in the municipality. We were also helped by the rayon Komsomol committee with equipment for the Computer Club, as well as facilities for training software specialists."

Indeed, our notebooks were covered with dozens of pages reflecting the thoughts, discussions and dreams of the young people in the four municipalities, dealing with areas in which possibilities exist for the full realization of their potential and where such opportunities are only now being developed. But let us stop with the ideas now and start to act. This will be the testing stone of self-government of the municipalities.

Crossing Points

Arsen Milanov, member of the bureau of the municipal Komsomol committee and deputy chairman of the Podkova Municipal People's Council Executive Committee: "There are many municipalities in the country which, for one reason or another, lose from the draining of manpower despite all the laws passed so far. At this point we should also consider contracting for manpower and for available production capacities on a national scale. Once a year the managements of the large economic organizations could meet with the managements of municipalities throughout the country. The possibility should exist to conclude agreements at such meetings involving manpower and the building of enterprises on the territory of the respective municipality."

Nasko Ivanov, Komsomol member, telephone technician at the Low Tension Service of the Technological Chemical Combine in Dimitrovgrad:

"The young people in the municipality are not concerned only with a specific job but also with the living environment in which they work. There are many enterprises in our municipality which are polluting the air. One of them is the Vulkan State Cement Plant. The entire country, however, needs cement. My suggestion is for all municipalities to make withholdings for a national fund which would be redistributed among the municipalities (naturally, on the basis of need) to solve ecological problems created by such enterprises."

If I Were the Mayor...

Daniela Marinova, 22, laboratory technician, Pentaeritit Shop, Technological Chemical Combine, Dimitrovgrad, people's representative:

"It is important for our municipality to improve the quality of the drinking water and reduce air pollution. I know that a filtering installation is planned for treating the water for manganese and, if I were the mayor, I would promote its faster implementation. Furthermore, I would use all the rights granted to the local executive authorities by the law and after a short period (no more than 2 years) of warning, I would stop all production facilities which have not achieved a lasting efficiency in their treatment installations, for personally I consider self-government by the municipality not to be the concern of the municipal management alone but of the entire population in the municipality."

I Want the Floor

Svetoslav Yulianov, Komsomol member, Samokitka mayoralty: "The main livelihood for young and old in our area is tobacco. There is no family not growing tobacco. Both I and my wife grow it. However, it is my impression that it is only the direct producers profit from the local 'golden' tobacco, which has spread our fame throughout the world. Mayoralties and municipalities cannot rely on any substantial income although they provide a number of facilities for growing this difficult crop. The reason is that most of the profit ends where the tobacco is industrially processed. This is an abnormal situation. On the other hand, it would be inefficient to build small local processing enterprises, for capacities have been developed in Kurdzhali. My suggestion is to establish a link among the brigade, the agroindustrial complex and the Tobacco Industry on an entirely different basis which I would describe as economic. Our municipality can only benefit from this."

Khaskovo Oblast

Mincho Yovchev, first secretary, Khaskovo Oblast BCP Committee. Yordan Kostadinov, Radi Semov and Kol' Raynov, secretaries.

Georgi Tanev, chairman of the Khaskovo Oblast People's Council Executive Committee. Vasil Pasev, Dobri Barakov, Angel Bonev and Stoyan Kurtev, deputy chairmen. Ivan Draganov, secretary.

Administrative center: Khaskovo. Includes the former Khaskovo, Stara Zagora and Kurdzhali Okrugs.

Area: 13,864.8 square kilometers (12.6 percent of the country's territory) with a population of 1,042,810 (11.5 percent of the country's population). The oblast generates 10.2 percent of the national income and accounts for 10.6 percent of the country's fixed assets.

The oblast is an economically developed territory with growth possibilities in all areas. It accounts for 10.6 percent of the country's industrial and 11.5 percent agricultural output. The industrial sector is leading. Its output, compared with agriculture, is higher by a factor of 4.3.

Comments by Oblast Party Leader 220000081 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 14 Oct 87 pp 1, 4

[Article by Mincho Yovchev, first secretary, Khaskovo Oblast BCP Committee]

[Text] In addition to solving a number of current and long-term problems in the newly established oblast, the oblast party leadership must answer two questions: How shall we work under the new conditions and in what areas will the activities of the party organs develop. In the present crucial period for the party and the country, the work of the party committees will be based on three main points which will determine the meaning and content of this crucial time: the creation of a highly efficient economy, improving and asserting the party's leading role in the socioeconomic life of the oblast, and concern for the development of the new socialist person, with increased social and political activeness.

The problems of our entire future work and the entire set of steps to surmount the real difficulties are focused within the economy-party-individual triangle. In the next few years a firm foundation will be laid for restructuring of the present oblast economy. This will be the first and most important step in the development of a unified economic mechanism. The main difficulty stems from the fact that there are great disparities in the economic development of the individual municipalities and areas in the new oblast. The restructuring will drastically enhance the technical and organizational standards of industry in the Khaskovo and Kurdzhali areas.

It is difficult to achieve absolute equalization of the economic potential of the individual areas in the oblast. Our objective is to make full and comprehensive use of all regional resources and to provide an even greater impetus to priority production facilities which will

ensure for the country a worthy position in the international division of labor, would expand its markets and would preserve the technological advantage gained by the exported items.

Historically, good economic and other relations have been developed among the municipalities within the old okrugs. Suffice it to mention the Maritsa-Iztok Complex. There has also been a traditional migration of the population from Topolovgrad, Ivaylovgrad, Svilengrad, Lyubimets and Kharmanli to the Rose Valley. As early as 10 years ago, several large machine building enterprises were opened in Kurdzhali and Khaskovo Okrugs and in Topolovgrad, on the basis of the facilities of the Khidravlika and Khraninvest Plants. This was accompanied by the "diffusion" of new technologies in these areas. Suffice it to visit the plants of the Khidravlika SO and Fr. Engels MK in Kurdzhali, Komuniga, Chernoochene, Dzhebel and Kirkovo to realize the revolutionary influence which the labor collectives of the oldest worker centers in the country has had on the entire sociopolitical life of the former Kurdzhali Okrug.

But this is merely the beginning. We shall now develop electronic and machine building output in the Kurdzhali, Khaskovo, Kirkovo, Dzhebel, Svilengrad, Chernoochene, Topolovgrad, Ardino, Kharmanli and Lyubimets Municipalities. A new organization of the chemical industry will be established in Dimitrovgrad and Stara Zagora.

Our oblast has three resources: the technological, production and scientific strength of the Stara Zagora and Kazanluk Municipalities; the fertile Thracian land; and the extensive underused manpower in the southern areas. We already have a concept as to how to manage these national resources, for which reason doubling the output and national income generated in the oblast over the next 7 to 8 years is both the most realistic and most important party task.

We shall continue to develop at a faster pace the infrastructure for the new technologies and production facilities, such as a new generation of electronic equipment, metal processing centers with numerical programming, electronic controls, superhard materials and instruments, low-tonnage chemistry, consumer goods, robotized modules and complexes, electric power and heavy chemical equipment. In agriculture the emphasis will shift on stabilizing the manpower, irrigation and developing material facilities for animal husbandry and the processing industry. We must increase the production of grain, meat, cotton, tobacco and fruits.

The new conditions open rich opportunities for the spiritual growth of the oblast's population. The tremendous cultural and historical heritage and the currently created artistic values have a much greater audience and a new social address. Today this tremendous spiritual potential of the oblast must be used more efficiently. Opportunities are being created for multiplying the

results of the activities of professional cultural institutions and branches of creative associations. This requires a new style of thinking and a new approach in the organization of cultural activities, a very good coordination and synchronization of the work in the creation and dissemination of works of art. The main feature in all such activities remains the involvement of the entire population with the spiritual values of our society and the development of individuals not only as people who value but also as people who create aesthetic values and the transformation of culture and the arts into a real factor of social change.

The party members in Khaskovo Oblast bear a historical responsibility for this important restructuring process. The oblast party organization will continue to fulfill its leading role as the vanguard of the working people and as a promoter of new processes and phenomena.

At the present stage party work will be directed toward eliminating the current low social labor productivity, and poor labor and technological discipline, and the struggle against the alienation of many working people from social objectives and values. The successful development of the revival process in the oblast is of permanent and vital importance to us and to the entire nation.

The July Plenum substantiated the need for separating party activities from the operational mechanisms of the state and economic machineries and taking party work closer to the individuals and labor collectives. The demarcation of functions and the struggle against bureaucratism and verbosity are only part of the elements of the new style of work of the party authorities.

We must find, bring to light and assert other forms of work and political influence as well. Party leadership will be exercised without any direct interference in the administrative mechanisms of state and economic authorities and will be of an essentially political nature. Furthermore, we must eliminate from the style of party work elements of bureaucratism, formalism and subjectivism in the evaluation of cadres. Upgrading the role of the human factor and the active participation of all party members in shaping the party's political course are of decisive significance.

Considering the rapidly changing social and economic conditions, so far we have been unable to energize all party members and working people. Yet, there is no solution other than that of drastically improving the ties and interaction between the party members (and the PPO) with municipal and other party committees and enhance the role and place of rank-and-file party members. It is precisely to this effect that we shall seek new ways and means of work, relying on the old traditions of individual work with people and the intelligence and authority of our intelligentsia, which are being insufficiently used in restructuring processes.

The oblast leadership has set new strict criteria for work with economic and party cadres. It is creating conditions for the objective testing of their moral, practical and political qualities. All of them will find their proper place in labor and society.

The party members and working people in the oblast, from Shipka and Buzludzha peaks to the southern most areas in the Rodopi mountains will actively work on the implementation of the new party strategy and the economic, social and cultural upsurge of their native area.

05003

Short Description of Sofia Grad

22000008m Sofia *POGLED* in Bulgarian 31 Aug 87 p 4

[Excerpt] Sofia is a political, administrative and cultural center. It has 12 rayons and 32 settlements covering a territory of 1,194.3 square kilometers, and a population of 1,199,000 (end of 1985). It is of interest to know that in terms of population density, 1,004.3 people per square kilometers, it is in a leading position in the country; in terms of population size, it is second to Plovdiv Oblast and in terms of territory it is in last place. Sofia enjoys unquestionable primacy in terms of the number of people engaged in science and scientific services: 83.4 per 1,000. For the sake of comparison, let us point out that the corresponding figure for Burgas Oblast is six.

Sofia has powerful economic possibilities. Its fixed assets are estimated at 15,562,000,000 leva or 17.2 percent of the country's assets. The territory includes 183 industrial enterprises (state and cooperative) generating output worth 5,541,000,000 leva, or 13.3 percent of the country's overall output.

It is here that 60.7 percent of the country's scientific potential is concentrated.

Sofia has strongly developed science-intensive production facilities—electronic and electrical engineering—GAPS small- and medium-sized electronic computers, an element base for electronics and long distance and communications equipment. It produces systems for the automation of technological processes and laser equipment and optoelectronics and transportation equipment are gathering strength; the production of metal-cutting machines with numerical programming, in cooperation with the related Soviet enterprise in Ivanovo, is improving and expanding.

Ten percent of the fabrics, clothing, shoes and other items classified as the so-called industry for man, produced in the country, is generated in famous plants in Sofia. Biotechnical and chemical output generated here accounts for 12.4 percent of its overall production in the country.

Sofia has 435,000 decares, some 160,000 of which irrigated.

05003

Analyses of Territorial Changes

Economist Discusses Effects of Territorial Divisions

22000008n Sofia *IKONOMIKA* in Bulgarian
Aug 87 pp 73-81

[Article by Docent Nikolay Kotsev, candidate of economic sciences]

[Text] The successful implementation of the main socio-economic task of the 9th 5-Year Plan on the further growth of the well-being of the people and the comprehensive satisfaction of the material, spiritual and social needs of the individual, on the basis of scientific and technical progress, formulated at the 13th Party Congress (Footnote 1) ("Theses of the 13th BCP Congress on the Work of the Party for the Social, Economic and Cultural Development of the NRB in the 9th 5-Year Period (1986-1990) and Until the Year 2000." PARTIZDAT, Sofia, 1986, p 20), requires the solution of a number of economic problems. One of them is to develop an accurate view of the role of the economic efficiency of new technical developments taking place in the okrugs and municipalities under the conditions of a new approach to territorial development (Footnote 2) (T. Zhivkov, "For a New Approach in Territorial Development." PARTIZDAT, Sofia, 1986), so that the expedient channeling of investments may become possible on the territorial level.

The new approach is demanded by the fact that the country is entering a stage of development in which the territorial units will solve qualitatively new tasks and problems: implementation of the strategic course leading to achieving a qualitatively new growth of the economy and the other areas of social life, quality changes in production, technological updating and structural reorganization and further democratization through the systematic application of the principles of self-government. The "opening" of territorial systems, determined by the extent of development of production forces and maturity of production relations, would lead to the creation of comprehensive economic, organizational and other conditions which would take better into account the requirements of objective laws and ensure the fuller utilization of the opportunities for social advancement created by society.

The economic methods of managing scientific and technical progress in the territorial systems have been insufficiently developed. This adversely affects achieving a consistency between the interests of sectorial scientific research and design-engineering organizations and the economic interests of territorial systems. Under the

present practices the economic effect of new developments is noted above all in the respective economic sectors; the means of determining the extent of the multiplication of results in the territorial systems remain unregulated.

The comprehensive application of new developments, which is limited by the amount of funds available for capital investments and material and cadre support, cannot be accomplished simultaneously in all parts of the country (Footnote 3) (A. Lipko and K. Misko, "Regional Management: Problems and Prospects. Science and Technology of Management, Series III/1987." ZNANIYE, Moscow, 1987, p 47). Conditions for the efficient introduction of new equipment in one sector or another do not exist in all areas. The main criterion to be taken into consideration is the economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements, particularly those which are being introduced in sectors the level of development of which is below the national average.

In order for the united efforts of the territorial units, aimed at enhancing the scientific and technical standard of the production process in a given area may be efficient, we must determine in advance the economic efficiency of new developments in the individual okrugs and municipalities. This demands extensive studies and utilization of a respective set of methods, with a view to making economically substantiated decisions concerning the territorial location of the newly developed projects.

The economic substantiation of the need for applying scientific technical achievements is a major aspect in evaluating the expediency of new developments. The scientific and technical advancement of local production takes place in essentially three ways:

First, by modernizing and restructuring fixed assets;

Second, by applying solutions and new developments achieved by scientific institutes, development and application bases, technological centers, programming collectives, etc.;

Third, by applying rationalization and invention suggestions and foreign experience (Footnote 4) (Iv. Stoykov, "Management of Scientific and Technical Progress in Industry." SOTSIALNO UPRAVLENIE, No 1, 1984, p 15). In the first area, the most important role is that of the territorial and departmental authorities, such as the people's councils, in terms of the enterprises under their jurisdiction. Particularly important in the second are the scientific units in the area; and the overall intellectual and professional standards of the labor collective of the municipality, in the third.

In many parts in the country we notice a certain concentration of scientific and development units. These could become the basic factor in upgrading the efficiency of the scientific and technical development of the municipalities in the corresponding area. Technological trends are

being already developed in solving extensive problems related to the application of scientific and technical progress on the basis of common interests and the integration of their scientific potential. The organization of activities related to the implementation of scientific and technical tasks should ensure the coordination of national with local interests. This requires familiarity with the methodology and mechanisms of intersectorial coordination of concepts of development of scientific and technical progress in the territorial systems.

The establishment of centers, councils and commissions under the territorial party and state authorities, the coordinating functions in the dissemination of new developments of which are becoming increasingly clear, should include clear and firm concepts concerning the economic characteristics of the various new developments in the okrug or municipality. This will facilitate their work in formulating the necessary organizational-economic mechanisms for the accelerated dissemination of new developments. However, in order to formulate a substantiated and firm view on the economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements, we need a unified method and standardizing base, which will create conditions for differentiated accountability of economic results, based on the sites of their creation and application. Without the mastery and application of a suitable set of tools for determining the expediency of a given new development in the territorial system, the risk appears of adopting economically unprofitable plans, undertaking economically unsubstantiated projects and developing an attraction for effect rather than efficiency.

One of the basic problems of the methodology applied in determining the economic efficiency of newly developed measures within the territorial system is assessing the efficiency of the joint activities of several organizations—scientific, engineering-application and consumer—located on the same territory, as well as their specific contribution to the scientific and technical development of that same territorial system.

In order to provide a more general assessment of the economic efficiency of scientific and technical progress on the territorial level, we must determine the extent and trends of changes of investments over the past few years and the size of the actually achieved economic results and the trends followed in its changes during the same period of time.

The indicator itself of economic efficiency of scientific and technical progress in a territorial system, such as an okrug or municipality, is reduced to assessing the actual influence of science and technology on the end economic results of that system. We must not forget that the new developments applied at an enterprises in a given territory are mostly created elsewhere and at different times. This hinders precise conclusions concerning the true economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements. Taking into consideration that both in solving scientific and technical problems as well as in applying

results comprehensive relations are established, it would be accurate for the overall economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements in the territorial system to be computed on the basis of the indicators included in the territorial programs for the development of scientific and technical progress: the cost of developing scientific research and the economic results of the application of new developments. It would be useful for such indicators to be computed twice: once for all enterprises located within a given territory and the second time for enterprises which are strictly under local administration.

In principle the economic efficiency indicator for scientific and technical progress is determined through the correlation between the overall amount of economic results obtained during the corresponding year from applied scientific and technical achievements and the total annual cost of scientific services and engineering and application activities. In this case the extent of circulation of prototypes is particularly important (Footnote 5) (Iv. Siroezhin, "On the Economic Foundations of Scientific and Technical Initiative Under Socialism." SOTSIALNO UPRAVLENIE, No 1, 1984, p 65).

Depending on the place where scientific and technical achievements are created and applied, the economic effect is manifested differently and could have different values.

The economic efficiency of the application of scientific and technical achievements in an okrug (municipality) could be studied in four basic aspects. (Footnote 6) (For the time being no such studies are being made. However, they would be quite useful under self-governing conditions and, particularly, with the new approach to territorial development.) First, by taking into consideration all new developments, regardless of where a scientific product, an engineering design or a technological development have been created, whether within the given territory or outside of it. The economic effect achieved in this case in the okrug has been created from the application of internal (prepared in organizations located on okrug territory) and external (prepared in organizations in other okrugs) scientific and engineering developments. This will be the economic effect for the okrug. The economic efficiency of all applied scientific and technical achievements will be computed according to the formula $IEnp = Es/RntP$, in which $IEnp$ is the economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements; Es is the economic effect of the newly introduced activity in the territorial system for 1 year; $RntP$ is the total amount of cost for investment activities for 1 year, paid by agencies and organizations within the territorial system.

Second, economic efficiency can be computed on the basis of the results of scientific research, obtained by the organizations providing scientific services exclusively for the okrug, to which we must add the results of the activities of technological centers, engineering-application teams, program, mining collectives, teams of scientific

workers and other groups engaged in development and application activities on the okrug territory and working on its problems. The economic result of the application exclusively of internal scientific, design-engineering, technological and other development could be described as the intraeconomic effect for the okrug.

Third, in some cases scientific and technical developments created outside the okrug are applied in okrug projects. They could be the subject of a separate economic study. In this case, the economic effect could be considered as additional economic effect.

Fourth, scientific, development and other units within the okrug could develop design-engineering, technological and other projects for application outside the okrug territory. The economic effect of such projects is the potential economic effect for the okrug in which such developments were created.

The tools used in determining the types of economic results of new developments in territorial systems provide a good methodical base for the study of the various aspects of their economic efficiency and for drawing accurate conclusions concerning the expediency of various efforts in terms of scientific and technical progress, in determining the results of the new approach in territorial development.

Differences in the size of economic and intraeconomic results are grounds for engaging in useful studies and analyses. The amount of economic results is usually higher than (in rare cases only could it be equal to) the amount of the intraeconomic effect. Significant disparities in the values of the two types of effect are the result of different reasons: underdeveloped scientific and engineering-application possibilities on the territorial system, low economic efficiency of domestic developments, sluggishness in engineering-application activities, etc. Another reason could be the extensive application of highly efficient technologies introduced from the outside.

Minimal differences in the values of economic and intraeconomic results could be a mark of high efficiency of scientific products created on the respective territory or of the technologically enclosed nature of new developments in terms of the local economy. The inclusion of additional and potential economic results in the analytical study of the economic efficiency of new developments offers new possibilities of drawing useful conclusions.

Depending on the period for which the economic efficiency is computed, it could be either planned or actual. In turn, the economic, intraeconomic, additional and potential results could also be either planned or actual. A similar situation prevails in terms of expenditures. We must point out that the full amount should include expenditures in the stage of applied scientific research,

the stage of experimental design and the stage of preparing and testing the prototype, rather than exclusively the cost of capital investments in the manufacturing of a new item, made by the performer and the client.

Economic results must be computed at all stages of the new development process, as follows:

- applied scientific research;
- design and engineering;
- technological developments;
- testing and further work on prototypes;
- technological transfer (if possible);
- planning the production and installation of new equipment;
- technical preparations for production;
- mastering the production of the new items;
- organizing its regular production.

Computing efficiency by stage is particularly necessary in the case of overall national economic topics and tasks. This would eliminate surprises in assessing the expediency of engineering-application activities. Furthermore, the most efficient variant of technical developments (for the okrug or municipality) could be selected on the basis of comparisons and studies of current expenditures for specific developments.

The effect (in computations) would be unsubstantiatedly enhanced if the cost of a given production stage is excluded from the overall expenditures. This would adversely affect accurate decisionmaking concerning the development of adequately efficient prototypes. That is why the economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements must be computed accurately.

In addition to these, there also exist additional economic indicators which characterize the efficiency with which the scientific resources of a given territorial system are utilized. Some of them are the following:

- economic effect generated per person engaged in providing scientific services;
- annual outlays for scientific services per worker;
- capital-labor ratio in scientific services per employee;
- technical labor facilities for scientific services per employee;
- material outlays per 1 leva outlays for scientific research;

- wage fund in the overall cost of scientific research, etc.

The same indicators could be used in the case of engineering and application services in the okrug or municipality.

These additional indicators could be applied in providing a comparative assessment of the economic efficiency of new developments made in the various territorial systems. As territorial state authorities, and together with the scientific institutions, engineering-application organizations and program collectives, the people's councils must concentrate on the most advantageous (economically) and most necessary (socially) variants in the development of scientific and technical progress in their area.

The set of basic and additional indicators used in computing the economic efficiency of new developments on the territorial level is a mandatory part of computations for substantiating the sectorial allocation and reallocation of material, labor, financial and other resources, based on the efficiency of scientific and technical developments. These indicators enable us to determine the following: a. The role of scientific units in the development of the territorial economy; b. The need for restructuring scientific programs with a view to upgrading the efficiency of scientific and technical progress on a given territory; c. The need to broaden the scientific and the engineering-technical potential of the area, which calls for taking steps to recruit highly skilled specialists.

Actually, the application of this methodical approach enables us to provide a true economic assessment of the place and role of each okrug in the technical and technological renovations taking place in the individual sectors. This creates opportunities for determining the most expedient areas for "crossing" administrative boundaries and for a territorial integration of local scientific and technical policy. The conscious observance of the new requirements (Footnote 7) (T. Zhivkov, *Ibid*) concerning territorial development excludes the self-isolation of okrugs, which creates prerequisites for the application of domestic but inefficient scientific and technical achievements. The consideration of national economic interests and the aspiration to improve the economic condition of the organizations, which are directly influenced by the efficiency of new developments, largely prevent parochialism and prejudice concerning the quality of domestic scientific and technical developments. Naturally, in this case we need both an efficient economic mechanism as well as a reliable up-to-date extensive information system for cataloging new developments.

In order to eliminate disparity between departmental and territorial interest, a number of changes must be made in the mechanisms used in planning, assessing results and stimulating the activities of scientific and engineering-application collectives. The instruments used in the territorial management of new developments

should be such as to meet the requirements of further improvements in the planning and financing of scientific and technical achievements and more closely linking territorial with sectorial production development tasks.

For example, associations and okrug people's councils could jointly organize periodical competitions for the highest possible scientific and technical achievement. Would it not be possible for the Bulgarian Industrial Economic Association to offer prizes through its okrug agencies (OISA) for the best developments created in the okrug? Ensuring the extensive publicity of the results of rationalization and invention in the okrug would make the successes of scientific, creative and programming collectives nationally known and introduce additional incentives in their activities. This is only part of a future atmosphere of noble rivalry, which must be developed.

All of this, together with the adoption of the necessary renovations in the methodical apparatus used in the economic interpretation of scientific and technical progress calls for upgrading the role and responsibility of the people's councils and enhancing their organizational and economic activities to a qualitatively new standard. As territorial state authorities which organize public reproduction in the individual areas, the people's councils include in their budgets some of the net income created by the economic organizations on their territory. These authorities control (to a certain extent) economic relations in their area. On the basis of a certain financial independence, they participate directly in the planning and directing of new developments, formulating and carrying out important decisions related to the technical updating of production facilities in local industrial enterprises. The generation of income from the economic activities of such enterprises and from withholdings from the profits of other economic organizations creates the necessary financial base for solving problems related to the application of scientific and technical achievements. The efficient implementation of scientific and technical policy calls for watching over the economic expediency of suggested new developments in the area not only in the individual administrative-economic unit, and the creation of multiplying facilities for upgrading the economic results of scientific and technical achievements, applying suitable ways of influencing assigners and performers of scientific and technical tasks. In the opposite case we lose the opportunity for ensuring the most efficient utilization of the assets accumulated by society and the possibility of the most efficient channeling of financing, material and intellectual resources of the okrugs.

Consequently, real organizational and economic conditions are being created for managing new developments and upgrading the economic efficiency of scientific and technical achievements. The use of the practice of separate computations of economic, intraeconomic, additional and potential effect of new developments and, on

this basis, the study of the contribution made by scientific and scientific-application organizations to the technological integration among okrugs would help the territorial authorities in charge of managing scientific and technical progress in the formulation of substantiated decisions concerning the comprehensive development of territorial systems. This will meet the requirements of the 13th Party Congress on the thrifty and efficient use of resources, the exercise of an efficient investment policy and the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

Economic Specialist Discusses Territorial Changes

22000008n Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 2 Sep 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Ivan Vladimirov, Economics and Management of Settlement Systems Department, Karl Marx Higher Economics Institute]

[Text] The ukase promulgated by the State Council on the establishment of the new territorial-administrative units marks a decisive step taken toward surmounting the contradiction which has developed between the need for an intensive and dynamic development of the economy and the already inefficient form of its territorial-administrative management. The task now is, on the basis of acquired experience and conclusions, to develop efficient and reliable mechanisms for the accelerated development and establishment of a qualitatively new type of relations between the economy and the territorial units in their more mature and democratic aspect.

When and why did a need appear for a new territorial-administrative division of the country? The most general answer to this question would be the following: it was when our economy had exhausted its possibility of developing extensively, for the existing territorial-administrative apparatus was functionally unsuitable in exercising economic functions through the economic management forms. The old administrative apparatus was a stage in building socialism, characterized by specific political and economic problems which if solved successfully, as stipulated in the resolution of the BCP Central Committee Politburo. The administrative-command management methods, centralized budget allocations, consistent with centralized planning and the simultaneous performance of functions of owner and manager, neglect of some requirements of the law of value and administrative control over commodity-monetary relations, as well as other characteristic features of the old administrative management were necessary prerequisites for the establishment of socialism in the very treacherous area such as ownership and the planned and balanced development of the economy which, in some cases, was deprived of necessary prerequisites, and for seeking an optimal sectorial and territorial coordination

under the extraordinary conditions of the historically short time and, at the same time, the combination of purely economic with social interests of the working people.

In other words, the establishment of socialist ownership as an integral, unified and indivisible system required an extensive centralization of economic power and the period of its primarily extensive development determined the period of time during which such centralization could play a positive role.

At this point, many people would probably object, saying that bureaucratic administration in the economy cannot play a positive role, that it hinders initiative "from below," establishes artificial greenhouse conditions for economic units and hinders the effect of the law of value. These opponents are probably right assuming that we forget the fact that the effect of economic as well as any other objective laws can be compared to a fast and deep current in which only well-trained swimmers could swim. The bitter experience of some fraternal countries has indicated that the objective law acknowledges the right of the stronger, of the one who can produce with a lower cost and within a shorter time and at higher quality. The laws of economics are merciless to the weak. In this connection, it would befit us to remember that without subsidies, financing or granting loans at low interest rates, many of our leading enterprises in the areas of metallurgy, chemistry and machine building would have been unable to maintain their current positions. In a number of cases time will justify the efforts of the former okrug managements artificially to support some production facilities, considered somewhat inefficient from the viewpoint of economic indicators but, nonetheless, exceptionally useful from the social viewpoint. Therefore, the attraction of the great opportunities which the new territorial and administrative division provides for our economy should not be a reason for neglecting the many important accomplishments based on the previous territorial-administrative practices.

The use of such accomplishments will be necessary, for problems will not change all of a sudden unrecognizably until the ways and means for solving them are not radically changed and, in some cases, it may turn out that we are unprepared for their solution.

What does this refer to?

It refers to the fact that under the new conditions the municipality will provide economic management only through a dialogue with the economic organization in which the arguments will be primarily economic. As a self-governing community of the population, the municipality will control some natural resources on the territory, the manpower, the technical and social infrastructures and the right to develop, limit or terminate any given type of economic activity or trade and services. In turn, the economic organization will be the owner of the means of production. Both sides will seek reciprocal

advantages and, consequently, a most advantageous partnership. If the municipality does not like a construction organization it could seek the services of another within the oblast or, most commonly, in the neighboring oblast. In turn, the construction organization may not like the conditions offered by a given municipality and take a construction job somewhere else. It is natural that in this case municipalities which are stronger will offer better conditions and will be given preference. It would be hardly possible for Kovachevtsi to compare itself with Radomir, Radomir with Pernik, and so on, in the entire Sofia Oblast. The fact that Kovachevtsi, Trun or Breznik will be Pernik's equal in their dialogue with a given enterprise or trade organization does not mean as yet that "de jure" equality is also actual equality. It is natural for Pernik to offer more advantageous economic conditions. Fearing that the strong will become even stronger and the weak even weaker, the solutions are several: we must seek, first of all, a certain form of integration between the stronger and weaker municipalities. It is not excluded for the former okrug centers to develop for a while as nuclei around which the less developed municipalities will gravitate. Another possible solution is to promote the unification of the weaker, in the course of which, on a purely economic basis, a temporary territorial integration will take place within the limits of the oblast which, paradoxically, could largely coincide with the territory of a former okrug without, naturally, having other similarities. The third solution is for the less developed municipalities to seek the help of the oblast. Some may say that this once again will mean administering. Unquestionably, it will mean administering in its best form, for without sensible administration with a view to regulating a number of difficult socioeconomic processes, there is the danger that negative processes affecting the viability of individual territories may appear very quickly and not by the fault of the population. The fact that such help cannot go on forever and that granting it and its amounts will be considered at a session or any other representative forum in the oblast and that specific responsibility for its efficient use will be requested is a different matter.

Therefore, under the new self-governing conditions as well, previous experience can prove to be useful providing that it is applied in the spirit of the changes and has been reinterpreted in accordance with the qualitatively changed situation.

The new territorial-administrative division and the eventual adoption of the principle governing the oblast budget "from the bottom up" will create another problem as well. In its efforts to maximally increase its revenue, the municipality will call for withholdings from all economic organizations and for any economic activity conducted on its territory. As we know, however, an economic organization could work also outside the municipality in which its main production is centered. Could it be that under such circumstances there will be double taxation, one at the place of production facilities outside the territory and another inside the territory?

The problem is a difficult one and perhaps it would be more accurate to solve it for each specific case within the oblast framework unless the interests of different oblasts or municipalities are affected. We should not try to provide a centralized decision for all problems of this nature.

Interesting problems will arise also in connection with the possibilities of municipalities to increase or reduce taxes charged on economic activities conducted on their territory. Unquestionably, this will also include the problem of price setting, particularly for services provided with identical equipment and technology but also including different factors, such as transportation costs. In the interest of the population of a more distant municipality and for the sake of providing services they may have to sacrifice some of their income and in this respect they will have extensive rights in determining the rate of taxation. In this case a resolution of the oblast leadership on eventually subsidizing some prices may play a significant role.

Along this line we could point out many other problems of greater or lesser significance, which will have to be solved in the course of the practical work of the new territorial-settlement economic management. What matters more, however, is something else. It affects specifically the application of the law of value in its purest possible socialist variant.

The problems we have enumerated indicate that they could divide but also unite the municipalities without encroaching on their autonomy and the freedom of choice of a specific economic decision. The major party idea today is precisely the development of a qualitatively new type of territorial integration by promoting the creativity and responsibility of self-governing population communities. It is perhaps precisely now that we should be able to bring to light the great opportunities of socialist planning and rediscover it as an efficient mechanism for combining our various interests within common and universally important objectives.

The oblast plan is the center within which contradictions are interwoven but which also provides the key to solve them. This is not a play on words. A plan which is not based on the maximally accurate forecast of contradictions and difficulties which inevitably follow any development would not provide an accurate way of their elimination or of lowering the effect of their negative influence. It is a concept for the development of the entire oblast territory, which takes into consideration the common and different features in the socioeconomic development of self-governing municipalities, suppressing some and encouraging other processes, making the common interest of the oblast and the state the foundation for the development of municipal interests. The oblast plan, which is drafted in the most democratically possible way, must be a qualitative summation of the

main trends in the development of municipalities and, at the same time, the central point for the development of the oblast as an individual part of the development of the country.

The new territorial-administrative economic management is as yet to find the way for its practical implementation and to develop its advantages and deal with difficulties. Today its fate is in the hands of cadres and, especially, in their competence and persistence. It is only people who are intelligent, capable and dedicated who will deal with this important and difficult aspect of restructuring. Restructuring itself will be the most accurate criterion of their maturity.

Government Official Explains Changes
22000008n Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in
Bulgarian 3 Sep 87 pp 1, 2

[Article by Yordan Yordanov, chief, People's Councils Department, Council of Ministers]

[Text] In accordance with the resolutions of the 13th Party Congress, profound revolutionary changes are taking place in our country in economic management and administration. Restructuring is the main, the essential feature of these changes. This is a restructuring affecting the way of thinking and acting not only of cadres on all levels, as has taken place in the past as well, but of everyone—working people, the people's intelligentsia, the young, the entire nation, based on the principles of self-government.

The theoretical platform and practical approaches of this restructuring are included in the "Basic Features of the Concept of the Further Building of Socialism in the Bulgarian People's Republic," passed by the July BCP Central Committee Plenum, the BCP Central Committee Politburo resolutions on establishing new territorial units—oblasts—and the National Assembly Declaration on making municipalities self-governing communities of the population. The purpose of the restructuring into territorial units is to simplify the structure of the state authorities, eliminate unnecessary units and mount a decisive struggle against bureaucratism, ostentatiousness and formalism in the activities of people's councils. Petty supervision and regulation of their activities are alien not only to the contemporary style and methods of management but also to the spirit of the Bulgarian people.

The implementation of the profound changes found in the party concept of restructuring requires essentially new approaches, a new style and method of work, significantly different from our previous practices and stereotypes.

All of us without exception must prepare ourselves for this seriously, with no further delays.

Restructuring of the work within the system of the people's councils at the present historical stage in our development is based above all on the stipulation of the entirely new functions of the mayoralties, municipalities and oblasts under self-governing conditions.

As the authority of the municipal (rayon) people's council, both in the past and in the future the mayoralty will provide direct contacts between the population on its territory and the state authorities. However, so far its reduced functions did not allow it to develop activities directly related to the work and way of life of the population. The mayoralty will actively participate in drafting plans for the socioeconomic development of the municipality and the respective settlement. Without administering the activities of self-governing economic organizations on its territory, it will not remain a passive observer but will coordinate and control their activities. The mayoralty will be directly responsible for the development of activities related to comprehensive social services, urbanization and hygiene of settlements and construction with the forces of enterprises themselves. Not least, it will have its own budget, provide administrative-legal and technical services to the population, organize the maintenance of public order and the protection of socialist property, and so on. In other words, the function of the mayoralty as the spokesman for the needs and desires of the population in its territory will be increased significantly. The general assembly, and referendums on basic problems of development of the settlement will be its main form of work.

The municipality will rise to a qualitatively new level as the basic administrative-territorial unit: a self-governing population community. It will be the link within the management system within which problems related to the development, building and comprehensive social services to the population of the respective territory will appear, be discussed and solved. The municipality will draft the plan for its socioeconomic development and set up its own budget on the basis of its own sources of revenue and subsidy rates. The new formulation of the problems related to development and financing radically change its social function. Today no one else but mainly the municipality, its leadership and its population, will determine its future development and management. Where to build and what and when to build and to produce will be decided above all by the municipality. In the interest of truth and justice, in drafting the rate base we must take into consideration that disparities in the degree of development of the individual municipalities are substantially high in terms of population, territory, fixed assets, development, etc. With a slight anticipation, let us emphasize at this point that one of the main tasks of the oblast, is, through its coordinating and control functions, to provide identical conditions for the harmonious development of all municipalities.

As the basic administrative territorial unit, through the municipal people's council, the municipality will establish radically new relations with superior authorities and

with self-governing organizations. Without violating the principle of democratic centralism, everyone must take into consideration the decisions which it will be making as a self-governing community, naturally except for illegal decisions.

The creation of the most favorable working and living conditions for the working people in the municipalities will depend on the initiative and the work of municipal people's councils, under the guidance of the respective party committees and in close cooperation with the public organizations, the organizations of the Fatherland Front above all.

In accordance with the law which was passed by the National Assembly on the creation of the oblasts, as administrative-territorial units, their basic functions have been indicated as well. The resolution of the BCP Central Committee Politburo emphasizes that "they will be self-governing authorities of the population of the municipalities and will be under their supervision and, through them, under the supervision of millions of people organized in the territorial communities."

The new oblasts will be substantially different both from the old okrugs as well as the previous oblasts which were, above all, administrative branches of the central authority. It is precisely on this basis that the main function of the oblast is one of coordination and control. The new oblasts are powerful economic systems which will have much greater opportunities based on coordination and control in helping the economic and social development of the municipalities and creating real conditions for their harmonious development.

The new features in the functions, rights, obligations and responsibilities of the mayoralties, municipalities and oblasts demand qualitatively new requirements of the cadres employed on the various administrative levels. It is a question of a radical restructuring in the style and work methods of managing and performing cadres and eliminating the old stereotypes of management and administration, petty supervision and bureaucracy in the activities of self-governing population communities.

So-called "staged democracy" must yield in favor of true socialist democracy and extensive participation of the people in the administration of its own and governmental affairs.

The exercise of the power through the people means, in practical terms, that the population must become the direct, the immediate participant in the formulation and successful implementation of the plans for the socioeconomic and spiritual development of the respective territory. At the same time, we must teach the cadres the skill to rely on the ideas and specific suggestions of labor collectives and individual working people, by extensively developing forms of indirect democracy, such as surveys, referendums, voters' instructions, etc.

To this effect, the provisional executive committees of the oblasts and the specialized authorities of the okrug people's councils which will function until the elections must take specific practical steps to prepare the cadres in the municipal people's councils for governing and managing under self-governing conditions. In other words, they must be ready for the new tasks in the areas of planning, forecasting, and organizing the providing of comprehensive social services on the territory, the municipality and the mayoralty. The best features of the old experience of the specialized authorities on the okrug level should be made available to the municipal units which will assume their direct functions.

Our people are socially minded. They are concerned with and fight for the common good. As in the past, in the years of building socialism, they have frequently proved that they are sufficiently mature successfully to implement the party's stipulations and ideas. Let us now as well, as the party teaches us, trust the people's mind, initiative and feeling of social responsibility and dedication and be confident that they will turn ideas into reality.

Comments by Research Institute Official
22000008n Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in
Bulgarian 9 Sep 87 p 4

[Article by Architect Emil Lekov, director, Urban Construction Directorate, KNIPITUGA]

[Text] The establishment of the new administrative-territorial units—the oblasts—formulated qualitatively new tasks on strengthening the support structure of the national network of settlements and the full utilization of its resources.

In order to ensure the implementation of this main task, the new municipalities will have to pay particular attention to the stabilization of settlements within the community and the efficient utilization of available and potential opportunities existing on their territories under self-governing conditions.

Two main periods, directly related to territorial reforms, may be noted in the development of settlements in our country after the 9 September revolution.

The first began with the creation of the okrugs, in which the development of the settlements was predetermined by tempestuous economic growth. On a parallel basis processes of urbanization intensified. At a certain stage they led to disproportions in the settlement network, which created some problems.

For example, adequate housing in villages and small towns was abandoned while a housing crisis appeared in the big cities. Arable land was neglected in the villages while farmland was taken over to meet the need for

territorial expansion of the large cities. This period of development of our settlements could be characterized, in most general terms, as extensive.

The second period was related to the March 1977 BCP Central Committee Plenum, which was of historical importance in the development of Bulgarian territorial and settlement structures.

The existing 1,374 municipalities were closed down and 300 new-type municipalities were created as settlement systems. This was essentially the second major territorial reform in the country. During that period a great deal of effort was invested in strengthening and stimulating small settlements. The main purpose of such regional strategy was related to stabilizing the national settlement network and strengthening its polycentric nature in the future. A total of 272 new centers of settlement systems were attached to the 28 okrug centers. These settlement systems were the bearing structure of the national settlement system.

The time which followed the creation of the settlement systems and the experience which was acquired enable us to assess the positive and negative phenomena which followed this territorial model:

First. On the basis of intensified democracy in management, it was above all the economic base of 50 percent of the new municipalities that was stabilized. The settlements within these municipalities account for 84 percent of the country's population involved in the labor-residence-recreation cycle covering 63.6 percent of the country's territory.

Second. Negative demographic processes continued in 176 municipalities. The settlements within these municipalities account for no more than 16 percent of the country's population, using for its life cycle 26.4 percent of Bulgarian territory.

Third. A substantial disproportion became apparent in the use of the territory of the settlements, as follows:

In cities with a population in excess of 100,000 territorial possibilities have become exhausted and are insufficient for the implementation of the "labor," "residence" and "recreation" systems. In these settlements the residential density is as much as 400 people per hectare, while the territorial availability ranges between 25 and 40 square meters per resident of net built up territory.

Cities with a population of under 100,000 have opportunities for territorial and functional development mainly through the reconstruction of their old towns. The residential density here is as much as 330 people per hectare and the space availability ranges between 30 and 40 square meters of net residential territory per person.

Settlements with less than 35,000 population have possibilities for developing within their own territorial limits. Here the residential density is 100 to 250 people per hectare and the territorial availability of net housing per resident ranges from 40 to 100 square meters.

Villages and very small cities have unused territorial opportunities. Here the population density is 15 to 60-80 people per hectare and the territorial availability of net housing ranges between 400 and 1,200 square meters per person.

This situation, as well as the increased technical and communications possibilities related to population mobility, demand categorically the reassessment of problems of the long-term territorial development of settlements in the oblasts, as well as problems related to the concentration of housing. Opportunities must be created for improving amenities, particularly in villages and small- and medium-sized cities by developing the necessary social and technical infrastructure.

On the new stage, this means solving problems of basic human activities, mandatorily taking into consideration the following general stipulations:

- Limiting territorial development;
- Restoring, protecting and preserving the ecological balance;
- Preserving the individual architectural and artistic appearance of settlements, taking also into consideration the traditions of the local population.

This does not exclude but, conversely, demands the adoption of an individual approach to the development of the settlement categories, and seeking efficient ways of utilizing settlement territories. Thus, for example, the current villages have huge and still unused rich reserves of land suitable for cultivation, a total of 3,302,000 decares in the private plots and 1,318,000 decares managed by the APK, despite the stage reached in the development of progressive forms of self-satisfaction and family contracting.

The implementation of the stipulations of the July Plenum will demand efforts which, on the territorial level, must be concentrated above all on the conversion of the mayoralties and municipalities into the basic self-governing units. It is there that the vital problems of the working person and creator of the present and the future will be solved; from object of administration, this individual must properly defend his right of becoming the subject of administration.

Economist Discusses Responsibilities of Oblasts
22000008n Sofia IKONOMICHESKI ZHIVOT
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[Article by Docent Mitko Geneshki, Karl Marks VII]

[Text] The implementation of the party concept of the further development of socialism in our country objectively requires a restructuring of the territorial and settlement system, based on the principles of self-government. The need for such restructuring is related to the new stage in the development of production forces, the improvement of production relations and the elaboration of contemporary structures of territorial management.

The Politburo resolution on establishing oblasts as the new territorial units is consistent with this requirement. This will mean the practical undertaking of establishing a new territorial-settlement structure in the country. The creation of nine oblasts is a sociopolitical act of great importance, which marks the beginning of a qualitatively new reality in our society. Essentially, the oblasts are part of the new power structure in its territorial aspect. Their main purpose is to become the real self-governing authorities for the population of the municipalities. In a number of respects, this will lead to combining the state with the public principles of management and the development of a new and higher stage of socialist democracy based on self-government. The boundaries of the oblasts essentially cover the objectively established large territorial economic complexes in the country, thus creating opportunities for their further accelerated and qualitatively new development. From the administrative viewpoint, the oblasts must not be considered consolidated okrugs but qualitatively new territorial units, through which the principles of territorial self-government will be applied. The purpose is to intensify the vitality of the entire territory of the country and of all municipalities, and gradually to eliminate the reasons which trigger the depopulation of a number of settlements. The fact that the oblasts will be self-governing authorities of the populations in the municipalities and will be under their control also determines their socioeconomic functions.

The formulation of the strategic trends in their socioeconomic development as a whole plays an important role in the set of economic functions which will be performed by the oblasts. Hence the topical task of formulating long-term regional forecasts and comprehensive territorial programs. In the course of their formulation we must take into consideration the specific conditions and features of the respective oblast, its resources, demographic development and functions and significance in the national and international division of labor. The programs for comprehensive socioeconomic development of the oblasts must be formulated on the basis of multiple-variant forecasts. The main purpose is to ensure not only the comprehensive development of the

oblasts as a whole but also of the individual municipalities, with the fullest possible utilization of available and potential, natural, material, labor, financial and intellectual resources. In this sense, the important economic functions of the oblasts will include not only the accelerated development of productive forces but also their more accurate territorial deployment.

What does this mean in practical terms? It means that above all possibilities will be created for accelerating the socioeconomic development of the smaller municipalities and settlements and that we shall undertake to eliminate territorial "feudalism." This will bring about the full and efficient utilization of available resources.

Hence the following economic function of the oblasts: it is related to reassessing the current technology used in shaping and developing the territorial structure of production forces. Opportunities are now being created for public production in the oblast to develop on the basis of the principle of the integration of the forces and possibilities of the individual municipalities in order to ensure the efficient utilization of material and technical facilities, equipment and manpower. It is thus that subsequently economic prerequisites will be created for strengthening the processes of territorial concentration and production specialization and, on this basis, achieving a higher economic, social and ecological efficiency. Considered in this aspect, the economic functions of the new oblasts will be concentrated essentially on the further accelerated development and management of already existing powerful territorial-production complexes, the integration of industry with agricultural production and the development of production-technological systems. In the final account, this will mean the overall acceleration of regional economic growth. In this connection, it would suffice to point out as an example that with the present territorial system, powerful industrial complexes such as Varna, Devnya, Sofia, Pernik, Burgas and others were experiencing certain difficulties in their production-technical, technological and economic ties, manpower availability, production marketing, environmental protection, etc. Now, under the new conditions, these complexes will be the basic territorial integrating units in the development of production forces in the oblast.

The set of oblast functions includes the problems and tasks related to building up the economic base of the municipalities. This means the adoption of a differentiated and specific approach through the extensive utilization of the opportunities existing for the creation of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The development of a contemporary efficient material and technical base of the oblast as a whole and of the municipalities within it is a lengthy and complex process. In accordance with the new approach to economic management, we can point out that it would expedient to start by establishing sectorial territorial complexes. This

must be followed by their functional and spatial integration through the creation of intersectorial complexes. Such complexes may be combinations of power and machine building industries, light and food industry and agricultural output. The new economic functions of the oblast will require the identification and proper characterization of such complexes and the assessment of their role in solving not only oblast but also major national economic problems. This will indicate the place and role of each oblast in the development of the national economy.

Another problem which is becoming increasingly relevant under the conditions of the new oblast division is that of the extensive and creative application of the comprehensive approach to territorial management and planning. This will enable us to solve at least two important problems in this area. The first is to combine sectorial with territorial management and planning; the second is to ensure the comprehensive development of the economic base of the oblasts. The reason is that practical experience in building socialism in our country, in the Soviet Union and in the other socialist countries has unquestionably proved that it is impossible to implement the main objectives in the socioeconomic development of the country without the implementation of the territorial aspect of the national economic plan.

The territorial-structure development of the oblasts is closely and directly related to their comprehensive socioeconomic development. In this case the tasks are reduced essentially to the proper distribution within the territory of the basic vital functions—labor, residence, and recreation—and their spatial and functional integration. That is why we must develop a differentiated rating system for the development of the oblasts in accordance with the unified systems and the new stipulations governing the management of the investment process.

In connection with the economic functions of the oblasts, we must also bear in mind the role and significance of the territorial factor. In this case, however, we must concretize it in accordance with the specific conditions and features of the individual oblasts and taking into consideration the latest achievements of science and technology in this area. Suffice it to point out that we may expect in the future changes in the engineering-geological features of many parts of the country.

At this point we must provide a comprehensive economic assessment of the territory and, on this basis, formulate the most accurate trends and strategic directions in perfecting the sectorial and territorial structure of production forces. The differentiated approach in this process should bring about a definition of the territories within the individual oblasts, which would provide the most favorable comprehensive conditions for the building and development of production facilities and activities of national importance. It is particularly important to identify the economic possibilities of the respective

oblast, taking into consideration the need to combine regional with national economic requirements and with the main trends and areas of development of the national economic complex.

The social functions which must be implemented by the new oblasts at the present stage and in the future are varied and complex in terms of their manifestations. The main one is the gradual and systematic development of a comprehensive living environment for the population. One of its important elements in the oblast is the development of a contemporary scientifically substantiated and efficient infrastructure. In this connection it is important to bear in mind that it must be considered a set of material elements which are a function of the development of production forces and the size and structure of the population. Two aspects appear in this connection. The first is related to the coordinated development of the infrastructural elements of general oblast purpose, together with the municipalities: roads, communications, water and sewer systems, hydroengineering equipment, projects and activities related to education, culture and upbringing, and others. On the other hand, the oblast leaderships must properly direct, control and coordinate the resources and trends within the individual municipalities, taking into consideration the requirements of self-government and the real needs of the population. In other words, the oblasts must concentrate their efforts on the creation of the material and technical foundations for providing comprehensive services, for the municipalities are quite small and cannot always undertake the overall solution of such comprehensive problems.

The establishment of a comprehensive living environment is a problem which must be solved not only by the territorial authorities or through the territorial instruments and regulators but also through the application of the new principles governing relations among individual communities, economic organizations and sectors operating on the respective territory. The set of social functions of the oblasts must increasingly include the application of a new approach and a new vision concerning

the complex and varied and quite frequently specific problems of the respective oblast concerning migration and urbanization. It has become imperative to control migration processes among villages and from small to larger cities through economic means, instruments and regulators, within the limits of the individual oblasts. In this sense another important problem is the economic regulation of the growth of the population in the large cities. Past experience has indicated that this urbanizing process cannot always be directed as desired through administrative steps. Priority is also given to the need to study and assess a method such as the development of "satellite settlements" around the large cities. New capacities must be directed to such settlements and part of existing capacities transferred to them. This will establish a "ring" surrounding the large cities.

Another social function of the oblasts, in the light of the new approach for territorial development, is the decisive enhancement and improvement of cadre support in all areas and activities. The task now is for the oblast leaderships to define the means for the various types of cadres and, above all, specialists, and to seek ways and means for their efficient utilization. This is particularly relevant and imperative, for so far the higher educational institutions were not training specialized cadres in managing territorial communities such as oblasts and municipalities. This increases the role and significance of the VUZs.

The economic and social functions of the new oblasts are many, varied and complex. Unquestionably, there are also many problems which must be solved at the present stage and will have to be solved in the future. Specifically, this requires the application of a new approach along the entire chain from planning, resource support, technological updating and cadre training, to the final objective, which is the implementation of the party's strategic course of qualitatively new growth in all areas of our social development.

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